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Worldwide Report

ARMS CONTROL

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SDI AND SPACE ARMS

USSR NOTES FRENCH, GERMAN DISAGREEMENTS OVER SDI, EUREKA

Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 15 Feb 86 p 3

[Article by V. Gusenkov: "Alliance Without Agreement: What Do Paris and Bonn Want in Strategic Cooperation"

[Text] Beginning this year a significant acceleration in cooperation between Paris and Bonn in the military-political arena was noted. The Bonn government plays the pitch pipe. The Minister of Foreign Affairs, H. D. Gensher and other officials in the governing coalition vie with each other in the struggle so that 1986 will be the year of a "Franco-West German agreement in the interest of European defense." On the French side there is also readiness to discuss the question of "European defense" and to move in this matter from words into action.

The circle of military-political problems was the focus of negotiations between President F. Mitterrand with Chancellor H. Kohl in Baden-Baden. After the meeting it was announced with great pomp that in 1987 large maneuvers of French forces and the Bundeswehr will take place. There will be 150,000 officers and men participating including the French interventionists units of the "Rapid Deployment Force." These maneuvers, in the words of the French Minister of Defense P. Quiles, will be the most important event since the end of the Second World War for both armies.

Joint weapons production is growing. French corporations Dassault-Breguet and Aerospatiale jointly with the West German corporations Messershmitt-Bolkow-Blohm and Dornier are producing antitank missiles and air defense systems.

The center of difficulty, however, more and more turns toward the coordination of military policy and the integration of military doctrines. At the end of last year the French President and the FRG Chancellor agreed to "defrost" the articles of the 1963 Elysees Agreement concerning the problems of defense and security. For almost a quarter of a century these subjects have been "under look and key." Now within the framework of a bilateral commission including politicians and military men, there are active discussions on the problem of "strategic cooperation."

hyperspeed computers and optical electronics are directly connected with the military sphere.

A more tangible divergence between France and the FRG remains in their approaches to the American "Star Wars" plan. On the whole, France has come out against placing offensive weapons in space. President F. Mitterrand and other government officials have stated their disagreement with the "Strategic Defense Initiative." It is true, that in practice the socialist government has not forbidden French firms from seeking contracts within the SDI framework. The government has a positive attitude toward participation of French companies in contracts connected with SDI, Minister of Defense P. Quiles announced. He reminded that from a "political and international point of view" France did not support SDI, while expressing the opinion that, he thought, it was necessary to distinguish between SDI and conducting research. Such logic seems strange. The managements of the huge corporations Marta and Aerospatiale have already announced their intention to participate in SDI.

Bonn actively supports SDI. The ruling coalition rushed to begin negotiations with America on the conditions for FRG participation in "Star Wars." This decision, although it was no surprise to the French government, was taken in France as confirmation of the FRG's alignment with Washington. In Paris in connection with this they remember that the Bonn government attacked the French suggestion for the European space agency to develop the "Hermes" reusable space craft. In 1984 the FRG approved this suggestion in principle. But at the beginning of last year referring to the "Hermes" project as an overly expensive proposal, the Federal Republic renounced its previous decision. Such treachery by a "privileged" ally caused irritation in French government circles. They came to the conclusion there that in space affairs the FRG is more committed to the United States that to an "independent European space" plan.

All of these facts show that in France and in the FRG they do not view the place of Western Europe the same way in the current multipolar world. Paris, far from questioning the leading role of the United States in the western camp, thinks that Western Europe as one of the "centers of power" is capable, leaning on its economic potential and political influence, of courageously maintaining its specific interests in the face of the powerful overseas ally. In Bonn this philosophy is not laid out. There, they more and more count on the direct involvement of Western Europe in the U. S. global strategy. Doesn't the so-called "European Defense Initiative" being nurtured by the FRG ruling circles testify to this. It proposes the development of a ballistic missile defense in Western Europe as an appendage to the SDI.

The most widespread "argument" by adherents of a "European defense" in France--and there are many of them in the government and in the opposition--comes in the form of an affirmation: to stop the slide of the FRG toward Washington, possibly, will strengthen the Franco-West German military alliance. This calculation is based on the fact that coming together with the FRG on military-political problems will lead it to support the policies of France in Western Europe. This, of course, is a delusion. The Parisian LE MONDE sets it forth very clearly: the Bonn coalition will not make any decision which could possibly create an impression of divergence between the FRG from the

SDI AND SPACE ARMS

CHALLENGER DISASTER REVEALS SDI 'DANGERS"

Moscow ZA RUBEZHOM in Russian No 12, Mar 86, p 16

[Article by Leonard Nikishin: "Lessons of the 'Challenger' Tragedy"]

[Text] The discussion of the catastrophe which recently befell the American spaceship "Challenger" continues in the pages of the world press. The causes of the accident, possible changes in the U.S. space research program, and the economic, political and military results of this tragedy are being analyzed. But dominating this is the alarming thought: space equipment development in the United States for the "Stars Wars" program, conceals within it a multitude of dangers and one of them is the possibility of breakdown and malfunction with a subsequent catastrophe which would threaten the very existence of mankind.

The powerful explosion of the external tank destroyed the American spaceship "Challenger" only a little over a minute after launch. It was still within range of the television cameras and the catastrophe was observed by millions of people on their television screens.

The destruction of the ship and its crew of 7 astronauts was incomprehensible to most Americans. How could this catastrophe befall a reliable space vehicle built in accordance with the latest technology and which had already made ten flights making it seem as if it were going to be a milk run? Why didn't the multiple, redundant computers on the ship give an alarm? Could it be true that no method for saving the astronauts had been provided for all possible emergency situations? Why was the defect not observed in time?

A special presidential commission is answering these and other questions. Its work is still not finished; however, there are many opinions, evaluations and forecasts on the pages of western press and in television commentaries. Scientists, engineers, political figures and diplomats, military men and journalists are expressing their opinion. There is no lack of attempts to understand the tragedy which has taken place and evaluate its impact on the long-term prospects of the American space program.

in a letter to the chairman of the presidential commission investigating the "Challenger" disaster emphasized that the 23 January 1985 launch of the "Discovery" orbiter was delayed for days due to cold weather (low air temperature has been named as one of the possible reasons for the O-ring malfunction.--L.N.). The launch of the "Challenger" took place. The "Discovery" had to accomplish secret Pentagon missions. "Why were all the precautionary measures not taken so that the flight would be a maximum success?" asked the Congressman.

Others put another question: Is it possible to consider everything in the development of a system as complex as the "space shuttle"? Is it possible to generally avoid errors for which a dear price must be paid?

Such questions have led to a discussion in the United States of the "Challenger" tragedy within the framework of a simple analysis of the concrete reasons for the accident and the prospects of manned space flights.

"Imperfect people cannot create a perfect machine"--this statement by the American scientist J. Pike may be applied to more than just the "space shuttle" system. It can equally be applied to other complex, technical systems, the many components of which being based on the use of new physical principles and new materials, in essence, are experimental. The history of development of similar systems is not only a chronicle of triumph and victory but also failure and catastrophe. All of these in one way or another had an impact on the progress of events, provoked interest and determined the fate of many people.

The simultaneous increase in the scale of complexity of such systems makes catastrophes more certain and more grandiose. But the dangers grow hundreds of times more if it concerns a modern weapons system. All of mankind is already under the threat here...

Computer Reliability and the Fate of Mankind

"Limited" in this sense is the military-technical system now being developed in the United States in the framework of President Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) program to which almost immediately they stuck the title "Star Wars."

Many dozens (and soon hundreds) of orbital battle stations equipped with powerful lasers, particle beam weapons, rail guns and God knows what else--this is how space appears to "star strategists." This whole armada subordinate to the orders of an all-powerful super computer (people, of course, are powerless here), must instantaneously acquire targets (missiles and nuclear warheads) and destroy them immediately.

It cannot be denied that this grandiose system, even in the opinion of many scientists, is absurd and unrealistic. It is impossible to develop an absolutely impenetrable shield against nuclear missile attack they say. The "umbrella" in any case will be "full of holes." But the cynical calculations of the strategists of "Star Wars" are that it will be effective against the

"Challenger" tragedy shows: complex, space systems cannot be guaranteed against unforeseen malfunctions and accidents.

Already at the preliminary stages of research it has become clear that development of the SDI program requires many fundamentally new and as yet unperfected technical devices. These, in particular, are the so-called phased-array mirror and the x-ray laser.

"But for a sufficiently fast development of the energy necessary for generating the high powered x-ray laser nuclear pumping is necessary which can be obtained from a nuclear explosion," noted the London newspaper THE FINANCIAL TIMES.

Demilitarization of Space Is the Order of the Day

Such technical devices, as soon as they have been developed, undoubtedly will require full-scale development, that is, testing in space. The logic of research leads to this. But this means that the United States must violate the treaties concluded with the USSR on the principles of the activities of states in the exploration and use of outer space (in which it is forbidden to introduce nuclear weapons in orbit) and on the limitation of antiballistic missile systems. The United States Secretary of Defense, C. Weinberger, of course knows this and is not disturbed by this. He has already managed to announce that if it was necessary to re-evaluate these treaties, then the American side would do this.

But even trying elements of such a system will not be satisfactory as a test of the whole system, which, in essence, is impossible. Here it must be assumed that computers "will not suffice."

The Soviet government has repeatedly stated that the USSR will not allow the violation of the existing rough parity of forces and will take active countermeasures in response to the "Star Wars" program. The Soviet Union opposes the evil SDI plan with a clear and precise program for eliminating all nuclear weapons by the year 2000 as proposed recently in the statement by M. S. Gorbachev, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and developed in the political report of the CPSU Central Committee to the 27th Congress of the CPSU. What could be a better defense against such a weapon than its nonexistence?

Why does Washington answer our country's call to reduce strategic nuclear arsenal through treaty with the USSR with "Star Wars" programs? What is more important to those who make U.S. policy? The answer must be found in the guts of the American military industrial complex. The military business which has lined its pockets fairly well in the arms race has recently been feverishly searching for new ways to continue. The times are changing and now it is necessary to pretend black is white and here in place of the "sword," the unending variants of MX, Trident, and Pershing missiles and so forth appears the elegant ad campaign for a "Defensive Space Shield" and new billions of profits will be provided for decades.

U.S.-USSR GENEVA TALKS

SHEVARDNADZE LINKS ARMS CONTROL, ANTITERRORISM POLICY

PM231409 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 23 Apr 86 First Edition pp 1, 2

["Report by Comrade E. A. Shevardnadze at the Ceremonial Session Devoted to the 116th Anniversary of V. I. Lenin's Birth"--PRAVDA headline]

[Excerpts]

The 27th Congress: The Leninist Philosophy of Peace and Security

Comrades! Lenin said that the old diplomacy is incapable of speaking directly and openly. Direct and open speaking with peoples and governments is the inalienable characteristic of the new, socialist, Leninist diplomacy. The our party's 27th congress has just demonstrated this. The Political Report made to the congress, the principles set out in it for the creation of an all-embracing system of international security, and the program for the elimination of nuclear weapons and other types of weapons of mass destruction, embody the Leninist principle: "As few general statements, solemn promises, and elaborate formulas as possible; and as many very clear resolutions and measures as possible, which will really lead to peace."

The Soviet Union has proposed very clear measures and resolutions, which will lead to peace, and to totally removing th danger of war. Clear proposals presuppose clear answers. But the West is replying in its traditional tone — by striving, as Lenin pointed out, "to divert attention toward the details and the individual aspects of current events and to obscure the meaning of the process as a whole." A disinclination to speak sincerely, diplomatic casuistry and pettifogging, and the "art" of complicating the very simplest issues and bringing about a stalemate — all these are specific instances of the reactionary ideology which imperialists are guided by in their vision of the world exclusively as a sphere for pursuing their antipopular, narrowly egotistical interests, an arena of action for disparate and mutually hostile forces.

The fundamentally new concept set out in the statement by Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev on 15 January [and] in his Political Report to the congress is based on an understanding of the world as a complex, contradictory but increasingly interrelated entity. The course of its development led to a review of such traditional political concepts as "war" and "victory in war," and revealed their unacceptability, or more accurately their senselessness in the nuclear space age The new political philosophy of peace equates averting war with mankind's survival. The level of security, it emphasizes, is now inversely proportional to the rate of stockpiling and perfecting nuclear weapons.

The starting point [for the new political philosophy of peace] is that the security of each state is directly dependent on the security of all. National security is a fiction if it is not part of universal security. Thus, there follows the vitally important conclusion for the destinies of mankind: The only path which does not carry the risk of suicide is to renounce the methods of force in resolving international questions and to settle them exclusively by political means. This philosophy sets the task of preserving civilization higher than bloc, national, and other interests.

At the beginning of this century, Lenin discerned with foresight the trends in development of military equipment capable of putting a question mark over life on earth and formulated a practical line toward peaceful cohabitation and cooperation between states with different social systems. In the nuclear space age, this is imperative for all countries and all peoples.

The concept of an all-embracing system of security contains prerequisites for the materialization of a new political philosophy of peace. The entire complex of international relations and their every sphere, whether military-political, economic, cultural, or humanitarian sphere, can be restructed on this basis. It contains the key to resolving global problems and settling regional conflicts and eradicating terrorism.

Our ideology categorically rejects terror. As early as its second congress in 1903, the Communist Party resolutely rejected it as a means of political struggle.

The Soviet Union is a principled, convinced opponent of any terrorism, primarily of the most repugnant form of terrorism —

and chemical arms programs would yield for the West European states alone a savings of approximately $300 billion.

Disarmament is vitally needed by peoples of liberated countries where the number of those who go hungry reaches 500 million people. No, an equitable economic order will not be established in the world if material preparations for war are not halted.

Our wide-ranging proposals aimed at curbing the arms race and at disarmament and military detente are widely known. Recently in Berlin Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev set out in a concrete manner the practical aspects of the foundations for all-embracing security. The essence of the new initiative of socialist countries, aimed at strengthening all-European security and at an equitable and gradual lowering of the levels of conventional arms, has been set out.

The new approach to international affairs took shape in the process of the collective examination of the problems of world politics with our allies and friends. The meetings among the highest party and state leaders of the fraternal countries were of special significance in this creative cooperation.

The interaction within the Warsaw Pact framework and the CEMA has been raised onto a new level.

At the same time, this new approach predetermined a different pace for the development of our relations with all socialist states. Following the Central Committee's April plenum, the cooperation with them, on the basis of Marxism-Leninism and socialist internationalism, reached a qualitatively higher level. A greater dynamism, comradely openness, a greater coordination, purposefulness, and profound democratism are now inherent in all its areas.

It is gratifying that certain positive turning points have begun to take shape in the Soviet-Chinese interstate relations.

Pooling the forces of the socialist countries gives an impetus greater than the mere sum of the parts. This is the decisive factor in ensuring that the concept of peace based on a civilized approach will be put into practice.

The communist and workers parties, the social democrats, the Nonaligned Movement, and the powerful antiwar forces of the world are coming out increasingly resolutely for a radical restructuring of international relations on just and democratic foundations. It is only the ruling circles of imperialist powers, led by the United States, who are aspiring to hegemony and to the role of arbitrary ruler of the destinies of people who are in opposition. Thus, on one side of the scales there is a policy of peace and security and on the other a policy of militarization and expansion expressed today as the doctrine of neoglobalism. The very vocabulary of this doctrine -- "punish," "instruct," "teach a lesson," "take revenge" -- indicates its essence and direction. It is nothing other than a modernized version of colonialism called upon to underpin the right to overthrow legal governments by means of the export of counterrevolution and the use of hired bandits, and calculating on taking social revenge by this means. An example of this is the undeclared wars against Afghanistan, Lebanon, Nicaragua, Angola, Mozambique, and subversive acts against the governments of other sovereign states. The U.S. aggression against Libya has shown how dangerous such a policy is. There is an organic link between the bomb blasts in residential areas of Tripoli and Benghazi and the nuclear explosions in Nevada. Peoples have seen shameless chauvinism, arrogance, and the anything goes psychology turn into a barbarous act of state terrorism carried out by the most advanced means of destruction. Peoples have seen why U.S. aircraft carriers rove the seas and oceans, and why U.S. military bases, surrounding the globe with barbed wire from Japan, the Korean Peninsula, then to Britain, and to the Panama Canal, have been set up.

The steadfastness of the Libyan people, the resolute measures and actions taken by the Soviet leadership and our country, and the condemnation in principle of the act of state terrorism by the world community have prevented a further increase in the threat to peace and have smashed this imperialist venture. But the danger of new intrigues of imperialism still exists. And no one must be in any doubt about the sympathy and solidarity of the Soviet Union for all those who are defending their right to independent and free development, who are defending their national and human dignity.

Our country is willing to conduct a constructive dialogue with all countries, and of course with the United States. We are in favor of continuing the process that was started in Geneva. But Washington, by its actions, has created serious difficulties regarding the possibility of improving Soviet-U.S. relations and practical preparations for the meeting between the leaders of our two countries all the more so. In Washington there are forces which would like to explode the warming that has taken shape in Soviet-U.S. relations and to put an end to the Geneva spirit. This influence of theirs has been felt recently in the U.S. policy, and the Libya events are a link in this policy. The creation of the conditions that are necessary for continuing direct dialogue at a high level depends now upon the U.S. Administration. Practical actions are needed that are capable of reducing the military danger and raising trust between states. We are ready for this.

Ilich's comrades-in-arms were enraptured by his political realism. Georgiy Vasilyevich Chicherin used to recollect that at critical moments, this trait of Lenin's was a certain guarantee of the infallibility of our party's foreign policy course. We stand on the same positions: The Soviet leadership is convinced that political reason and realism will prevail over political madness. The Communist Party and the Soviet Government will do everything that is essential for our people to live in conditions of peace, and will work confidently and energetically at implementing the historical decisions of the party's 27th congress.

The creative work of Soviet people is the most reliable guarantee of peace and security and our readiness to respond to any challenge of time and to repulse any intrigues from the foes of socialism. We have huge natural resources, inexhaustible resources of willpower and knowledge, energy and talent, the ability to create and to achieve success. There are people on hand to guard and there are the means to protect the creative work and the freedom of Soviet people.

We will not allow military strategic parity, which guarantees our security and the security of our allies and friends, or peace throughout the world to be broken. We have an active foreign policy, an integral conception of a stable peace and universal

U.S.-USSR GENEVA TALKS

BRIEFS

KARPOV CONSULTS IN UK--London, 19 Apr (TASS)--Soviet-British political consultations on questions of the limitation of nuclear and conventional weapons and disarmament took place on Friday at the Foreign Office of Great Britain. On the Soviet side, they were conducted by Viktor Karpov, special assignment emissary of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs and leader of the Soviet delegation at the talks on nuclear and space weapons; and on the British side by Timothy Renton, Great Britain's minister of state for foreign affairs, and T. Daunt, assistant under secretary of state at the Foreign Office. [Text] [Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1013 GMT 19 Apr 86 LD] /9738

CSO: 5200/1340

NUCLEAR TESTING AND FREE ZONE PROPOSALS

DEPUTY MINISTER OUTLINES USSR MORATORIUM STANCE TO SIX ENVOYS

LD111637 Moscow TASS in English 1601 GMT 11 Apr 86

[Text] Moscow, 11 Apr (TASS)--The ambassadors of Argentina, Greece, India, Tanzania and Sweden and the charge d'affaires ad interim of Mexico were invited today to the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In the course of the conversation that ensued Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the USSR Viktor Komplektov outlined the Soviet position in connection with the nuclear weapon test conducted by the United States on 10 April of this year. It was said in this connection that in the light of such a development of events the Soviet Union, as it had warned earlier, from now on considered itself free of its unilateral commitment to refrain from holding any nuclear explosions.

It was stressed at the same time that the Soviet Union was prepared at any moment to return to the question of a mutual moratorium on nuclear explosions should the United States government declare that it would refrain from holding such explosions. The Soviet proposal on the immediate commencement of the talks in any form on a complete prohibition of nuclear tests was also confirmed.

The Soviet side again stated its high appreciation of the activity of the leaders of the six countries and expressed hope that they would continue their efforts directed at lessening and liquidating the nuclear threat, first of all by way of stopping nuclear weapon tests.

On their part the representatives of the six countries stressed the importance of continuing and intensifying efforts to achieve the above-stated aims.

/9738
CSO: 5200/1338

NUCLEAR TESTING AND FREE ZONE PROPOSALS

USSR LAUDS IDEA OF ASIA-PACIFIC NUCLEAR FREE ZONES

Soviet Government Statement

LD230930 Moscow TASS in English 0920 GMT 23 Apr 86

["Soviet Government -- Statement" -- TASS item identifier]

[Text] Moscow April 23 TASS -- The world is passing through an intranquil and crucial phase of development when political will, a new approach, far-sighted decisions and practical actions are required with a view to improving the international situation radically. The time now is such when it is necessary to learn the great art of living together both in the world as a whole and in its individual regions in particular.

Advocating detente, the complete elimination of nuclear weapons before the end of the current century, the establishment of a comprehensive system of international security and the development of cooperation -- these proposals found their vivid manifestation in the documents of the 27th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union -- the U.S.S.R. takes into consideration in full measures the interests of the countries of the Asian-Pacific region. Important processes are taking place there which cannot but have an impact on the positions of the Soviet Union as one of the largest Asian and Pacific Ocean powers, on those of its friends and allies, and on the interests of international peace and security.

In the existing conditions it is especially necessary to show mutual restraint, refrain from any actions that would worsen the political climate in that region of the world and hold back the consolidation and development of the positive processes there -- the processes that promote the continuation of dialogue and the search for ways for improving the international situation.

Meanwhile, actions of this kind leading to the aggravation of tensions in the region are are being taken by the United States of America and its allies. Judging from everything, certain political circles in the USA and Japan do not picture the future of the Asian-Pacific region in any other way than in the form of confrontation of different countries. On the practical plane, attempts are being made for that purpose to create a structure and mechanism of a so-called "Pacific community" which can be transformed in the future into a closed regional grouping, into another militaristic bloc.

Approaching in the most selective manner the list of potential members of the "Pacific community", its initiators clearly show no concern for making the proposed organization a truly representative forum for the discussion and solution of the long-pressing economic problers of the region, and also for changing the inequitable structure of interstate trade and economic relations that has taken shape there.

The world has witnessed more than once how the screen of economic assistance and economic cooperation, the objective processes of internationalization and integration of the world economy have been used to further and substantiate imperialist plans for the establishment of military groupings, "teaties on joint defense" and so forth.

In the opinion of the Soviet Government, if no check is made to such a course of the development of events in the area where interests of many states of the world converge and become intertwined, it can lead to a serious aggravation of tensions in the Asian-Pacific region.

The foundation for friendly relations, for building up trust and promoting mutual understanding among peoples in that part of the world, just as in other regions for that matter, can and should be the development of equitable cooperation that is open to all, rather than efforts to put some states in opposition to others.

Given such an approach--and all peoples are interested precisely in it--there cannot be any room for knocking together blocs and counter-blocs, for establishing all kinds of "axes", "triangles", for forming closed groupings, or cultivating protectionism and discriminatory measures in maintaining mutual trade and economic ties.

The Soviet Government believes that, despite the difference in the political systems, ideologies and world outlooks, the peoples of the Asian-Pacific region are bound together by the community of vital interests. In the conditions of the growing interdependence of states it is much more difficult, or altogether impossible, to solve the existing problems on one's own or in an isolated group; for that purpose it is necessary to pool the constructive efforts of all states of the region irrespective of their socio-political systems.

The elimination of nuclear and chemical weapons by the end of the current century and prevention of the militarization of outer space, as proposed by the Soviet Union, would rid the peoples the world over and, naturally, in the Asian-Pacific region of the fear of nuclear and chemical threat, radically change the situation, elevate the security of states to a new level and promote the creation of felicitous conditions for the development of mutually advantageous cooperation.

The Soviet Union also proposes to press through bilateral and multilateral consultations for a solution to contentious issues, for better mutual understanding and for the building of confidence and thereby to create prerequisites for the holding of an all-Asian forum for a joint search for constructive solutions. It would be possible appropriately to prepare and hold a separate meeting of the countries of the Pacific Ocean area to consider matters of security, including those of economic ones. Considering the potential of the countries of the Pacific Ocean area in the political and economic fields, the holding of such a meeting -- and one should see to it that it ends with important decisions -- would become a major event for the region and would have a fruitful effect on the situation in the world as a whole.

The implementation of confidence-building measures and a reduction in the activity of navies in the Pacific Ocean would play a stabilizing role.

The Soviet Union would welcome the establishment of nuclear-free zones in the Asian-Pacific region. The decision of the southern Pacific countries to declare the area a nuclear-free zone has met with the most positive response in the Soviet Union.

It stands to reason that all countries of the Pacific Ocean are wishing to take part in the consideration of matters of security in the Pacific Ocean and in the elaboration of decisions should do so. A number of countries have already come forward with various proposals aimed at strengthening security in the area. The proposals deserve serious attention.

While tackling large-scale tasks of accelerating social and economic development, the Soviet Union gives paramount attention to the areas of Siberia and the Far East which are part of the Asian-Pacific region. Stable, mutually beneficial trade-and-economic relations have developed between the Soviet Union and many countries of the region. The growth of industrial and agricultural basis, the completion of the construction of the Baykal-Amur mainline, the development of rich oil-and-gas, coal and other deposits of energy carriers, and the drawing of new raw timber resources of the area into economic uses objectively create additional important material prerequisites for the USSR's more active participation in the process of international division of labour, trade-and-economic, scientific and technical cooperation with countries of Asia and the Pacific Ocean area.

The Soviet Union is proposing to start a wide exchange of views between all interested countries of that part of the world on matters aimed at establishing equitable, mutually beneficial and steady trade-and-economic, technological, scientific and cultural cooperation. The following could become spheres of such cooperation: The development of productive forces, the training of personnel, the use of new sources of energy, including nuclear ones, the upgrading of means of transportation, communication, the revelation of new forms of trade and-economic, and financial cooperation with due regard for the interests of the developing countries of the region, exchanges of scientific and scientific-and-technical information, the development of measures for the protection of the environment and for rational utilization of biological and mineral resources of seas and oceans, the conduct of peaceful space research for common benefit, joint work in the field of medicine and health care, efforts to combat natural calamities and to eliminate their aftermath, and so on.

It is clear that these complex, diverse and large-scale problems will require collective preparation of big long-term projects and programmes and the participation of all the countries concerned in their implementation. The ideas which are available in this respect could be considered within the framework of the existing U.N. machinery, through the economic and social commission for Asia and the Pacific, in particular.

There is deep conviction in the Soviet Union that the establishment of large-scale cooperation on the basis of equality and mutual benefit between all countries of the Asian-Pacific region irrespective of difference of their social systems meets the basic interests of the countries of that part of the world and will promote a restructuring of international relations on an equitable, democratic basis. Our country is ready to participate most actively in such regional peaceful cooperation and to use for the purposes all economic, scientific and technical potential at its disposal.

The strengthening of good-neighbourliness and friendship between all Asian-Pacific countries and the pooling of their efforts in the common search for constructive solutions to the problems of security in Asia and the Pacific Ocean area would have a favourable effect not only on the situation in the Asian-Pacific region but would also become a contribution to the cause of the preservation and strengthening of universal peace.

Foreign Ministry Spokesman

LD231710 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1545 GMT 23 Apr 86

[Text] Moscow, 23 Apr (TASS) -- The development of equitable, mutually beneficial, and stable commercial, economic, technological, scientific, and cultural cooperation in the Asian-Pacific region is the basis for the creation of a peaceful friendly atmosphere in relations between states, on which a solid structure of regional security can be founded. This was stated here today at a press conference for Soviet and foreign journalists by Valeriy Sukhin, deputy head of the Press Department of the USSR Foreign Ministry.

The active development of economic, scientific, and technical relations and participation in the international division of labor are important ways of maintaining and strengthening peaceful good-neighborly relations between states and cooperating in the solving of national economic problems, he said. The Basic Guidelines for the Economic and Social Development of the USSR for 1986-1990 and the Period Through the Year 2000 provide for a considerable expansion of the USSR's foreign economic relations, including those with the countries of the Asian-Pacific region. This will be closely linked with the accelerated economic development of the regions of Siberia and the Far East, the active exploitation of the new railway lines of the Baykal-Amur Mainline system, the assimilation of rich oil-and-gas, coal, and other fields connected with power generation, and the development of new economic centers. All this will objectively facilitate an increase in the Soviet Union's role in the commercial and economic activities of the Asian-Pacific region.

Replying to journalists' qu4stions, V. Sukhin stressed that U.S. strategists, seeking to site ever newer kinds of nuclear weapons in the region, are trying to achieve the broad inclusion of that part of the world in the sphere of action of the star wars program. Space tracking and guidance stations that are part of the Spacetrack system are being built in Micronesia, Japan, the Philippines, and Australia. The realization of these ominous designs will increase by many times the danger of an outbreak of nuclear conflicts and will significantly decrease the security of the peoples living there.

The Soviet Union does not wish events to develop in this way, and it is precisely for this reason that it insists on the nonmilitarization of space, said the representative of the USSR Foreign Ministry.

The USSR proceeds from the view that the creation of nuclear-free zones in the Asian-Pacific region and the prevention of the militarization of the area would be a positive contribution to the joint search, along with all the countries of Asia, for a common, integrated approach to setting up a system for peace on the continent.

Speaking about the situation around Afghanistan, V. Sukhin said that the endless active interference from outside in the internal affairs of the sovereign DRA is continuing. Like any other revolution that is in the interests of its own people, the Afghan revolution is a victorious revolution. History cannot be reversed. No one will be able by force, cunning, murder, or interference to slow down social and economic progress.

[Moscow Television Service in Russian at 2112 GMT on 23 April carries a similar report on the Press Department briefing and adds the following: "Replying to a question about the consequences of Japan's joining the U.S. star wars program for building up an atmosphere of tension and instability in the region, the spokesman for the USSR Foreign Ministry's Press Department stressed: [Begin recording] [Unidentified spokesman] Our basic attitude toward this so-called Strategic Defense Initiative is well-known. We believe that in itself this so-called initiative and equally, the participation of other states in U.S. endeavors in this field, does not correspond to the interests of the American people, nor to those of any other people, including the Japanese. [end recording]

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NUCLEAR TESTING AND FREE ZONE PROPOSALS

MOSCOW PRESS CONFERENCE ON U.S. 10 APRIL NUCLEAR TEST

PRAVDA Account

PM141527 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 15 Apr 86 First Edition p 4

[TASS report: "For the Ending of the Arms Race; Press Conference in Moscow"]

[Text] On 14 April a press conference was held at the USSR Foreign Ministry press center for Soviet and foreign journalists in connection with the Soviet Government statement on the carrying out of a nuclear explosion in the United States. Taking part were G.M. Korniyenko, USSR first deputy foreign minister; Marshal of the Soviet Union S.F. Akhromeyev, chief of general staff of the Armed Forces and first deputy defense minister of the USSR; and A.M. Petrosyants, chairman of the USSR State Committee for the Utilization of Atomic Energy.

The statement at the opening of the press conference said that the Soviet leadership proceeds from the premise that there is no task more important and crucial right now than halting the growth of the danger of war and sparing mankind from the nuclear threat.

Fully determined to achieve a fundamental improvement in the development of world events, the Soviet Union has defined the struggle for halting the arms race and preventing it in space and for completely eliminating nuclear and other weapons of mass annihilation by the end of the century as the central avenue of its foreign policy for the years to come.

Common sense and the conclusions of authoritative specialists says that a foundation to the process of eliminating nuclear arms can be laid most effectively and at the same time most simply by means of the total cessation of tests of these weapons. The nuclear systems already in service would not be improved and the creation of new ones would be virtually impossible.

There is very objective prerequisite today for a mutually acceptable solution, encroaching on no one's security, to the question of a total ban on nuclear explosions with the establishment of strict verification [kontrol] of the observance of such a ban. All that is needed is the political will.

Guided by the desire to set a good example and to give the necessary impetus to the cause of nuclear disarmament, the Soviet Union took a bold step in August last year -- it introduced a unilateral moratorium on all nuclear explosions. For this it had to suspend the fulfillment of the relevant program and embark on certain military and economic expenditures.

Announced initially for the period through the end of 1985, our moratorium has twice been extended. On each occasion the Soviet Union has honestly issued a warning that the unilateral moratorium cannot be endless and that there is a limit beyond which the USSR will be unable to go. This limit is determined by the interests of our country's security and the security of our allies.

Unfortunately, the U.S. leadership did not stand the test of its responsibility and literally blew up a unique chance to halt the nuclear arms race in Nevada on 10 April. Under these conditions the 11 April Soviet Government statement that henceforth it is freed from its unilaterally adopted commitment to refrain from conducting any nuclear explosions was no surprise to anyone, I believe.

At the same time, it was emphasized that the Soviet Union is prepared to reintroduce at any time the moratorium on all nuclear tests, given a U.S. reciprocal readiness to introduce such a moratorium. Here it is once again up to Washington to reply.

Our proposal to begin talks without delay regarding a total nuclear test ban is also still on the U.S. Administration's desk. The USSR is ready for any form of such talks -- bilateral, trilateral, multilateral -- provided the matter leads to an agreement being reached.

In the light of recent events it is our profound conviction that the problem of banning nuclear weapons tests is not only not being removed from the agenda but, on the contrary, is becoming still more acute, and the Soviet Union intends for its part to strive with unremitting vigor to resolve it.

Replies were given to numerous questions from journalists.

Question: Could you explain from a military viewpoint the importance of banning nuclear tests?

Answers: A nuclear test ban is a serious and real measure to limit the nuclear arms race. An end to nuclear explosions will "freeze" the further development of nuclear ammunition technology and, consequently, will delay and perhaps even halt the creation [sozdaniye] of new models of ammunition and will slow down the development [razrabotka] of new kinds and types of nuclear means (carriers). The quantitative buildup of nuclear charges would also be halted at the same time. A nuclear test ban would erect a barrier in the way of the creation [sozdaniye] of various kinds of nuclear charges for space strike arms under the "star wars" program. In short, ending nuclear explosions is one of the reliable paths leading to the reduction of nuclear arsenals.

Question: Through Washington's fault, the USSR's unilateral moratorium on nuclear explosions did not become bilateral and did not stop nuclear tests. Was this Soviet act justified?

Answer: In declaring a unilateral moratorium on nuclear explosions, the USSR demonstrated its determination to strive in practice, using, among other things, the force of its own example, for an end to the nuclear arms race. The Soviet moratorium made the problem of ending nuclear tests one of the central issues in world politics. It vividly illuminated who is really in favor of eliminating the nuclear threat and makes the elimination of nuclear weapons the objective of his practical policy, and who, while getting away with peace-loving words, seeks to build up his nuclear might at an accelerated pace.

This Soviet act evoked a wide, positive response throughout the world, and roused and spurred into action the forces which are in favor of ending nuclear explosions and starting a movement toward a nuclear-free world. As a result even now, when through the fault of the United States the Soviet moratorium has ceased to operate, the question of ending nuclear tests remains at the center of the world community's attention. In other words, a more favorable situation has been created for the continuation of the struggle for a total ban on nuclear tests. All this makes it possible to consider our action justified, despite the fact that it has not yet brought complete success.

Question: Washington justifies its refusal to end nuclear tests in terms of the difficulties of verification [kontrol]. What can be said about that?

Answer: M.S. Gorbachev's statements have dealt precisely, clearly, and in detail with verification. Questions of verification pose no problem. First, the seismological stations which the USSR and the United States have are able to carry out verification reliably, and moreover their technical potential is improving constantly. Second, we can make use of international seismological data, and in particular we can take advantage of the proposal of the leaders of the six states in this connection. Third -- most important -- the Soviet side is prepared, if necessary, to accept on-site inspections.

Question: Washington resorts to various kinds of maneuvers in order to avoid resolving the problem of a nuclear test ban. What lies behind this?

Answer: The Soviet Government statement says that Washington conceals behind these actions its intention of continuing to threaten mankind with the nuclear sword. The United States continues to seek military superiority over the Soviet Union, and the NATO bloc over the Warsaw Pact Organization. It is for this purpose that nuclear charges are being tested for new types of nuclear weapons: MX, Trident-2, and Midgetman ballistic missiles, as well as for space-strike arms under the "star wars" plan. The U.S. President himself recently spoke about this.

There are no other reasons. The various "arguments," like the U.S. lag in nuclear tests, the need to maintain a "deterrence" potential, references to the inadequacy of verification [kontrol] -- all this is misinformation of the public. For a long time the U.S. Administration has taken refuge behind the problem of verification, a problem of its own devising. When the USSR said that there were no verification problems, that it agreed to any form of verification, international included, it turned out that the U.S. leading circles did not want a nuclear test ban.

Question: What damage has the USSR sustained during the moratorium?

Answer: The USSR has suffered a certain amount of damage from the military viewpoint, of course. But the political benefits of this step in the struggle to halt nuclear tests and limit the nuclear arms race have been greater than the purely military damage.

Question: What is the USSR's stance on nuclear tests by other countries, including France?

Answer: The USSR's attitude toward nuclear tests is precise and clear. We advocate the complete cessation of nuclear weapon tests everywhere. And the USSR and the United States must set an example in this respect as the states possessing the biggest nuclear potentials. We believe that the other nuclear powers, including France and Britain, must join in a nuclear test ban.

Question: What steps will the USSR take in the event of U.S. aggression against Libya?

Answer: The main thing here is to prevent U.S. aggression against this country, as against any other state. The Soviet Union is doing all it can in this sphere. But I think it might be counterproductive to say now what the USSR would do and when. That is all I would say in reply to your question on Libya.

The press conference participants answered some other questions posed by journalists.

Broadcast to North America

LD151509 Moscow in English to North America 2300 GMT 14 Apr 86

[Excerpts] [Announcer] Right now, an account of a press conference held in Moscow on Monday in connection with the latest American nuclear tests. The Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman answered questions from members of the press gathered at the press center.

This is Lutz Lehmann from West German television first program. The general secretary has said that he's going to meet Mr Reagan under no conditions [as heard] but he spoke about the spirit of Geneva and this spirit of Geneva should be reanimated. I would like to know if you see a possibility for the general secretary to meet Mr Reagan under the conditions of today.

[Korniyenko in Russian, fading into translation] The Soviet position on a summit remains the same as it was outlined just recently by Mikhail Gorbachev said the Soviet deputy foreign minister. The Soviet leader favors another summit without any preconditions. But such a meeting ought to yield practical results in the disarmament sphere. The West German television correspondent was quite right to highlight the need for an appropriate political climate preceding the summit and such a climate has yet to be created.

[Announcer] Another question was put to Marshal Akhromeyev, the chief of the Soviet General Staff, also present at the press conference.

(?Phillip Taubman) from THE NEW YORK TIMES. Was there a point in recent months in which you thought that the political gains were not worth the military costs and did you recommend perhaps ceasing the moratorium some time in the last few months?

[Akhromeyev in Russian, fading into translation] The Soviet people, be they soldiers or civilians, all want less military tension, a stop to the arms race and a more stable future, said Marchal Akhromeyev. This desire of the people is fully shared by the Soviet Government and by the Soviet Armed Forces and their command. We are aware of the fact that the Soviet military are pictured in the West as professing ideas contrary to those publicly stated by the Soviet Government. This is simply not true. The Soviet General Staff had never expressed any desire whatsoever to end the moratorium, despite certain costs in military terms. The ultimate decision to end the self-imposed ban was forced on us by the American blatant sabotage, not by Soviet military lobbying.

[Announcer] The following question was addressed to the Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Georgiy Korniyenko.

Stuart Loory, Cable News Network. Mr Korniyenko, how open is the Soviet offer to resume its moratorium if the United States is willing enter into discussions? In other words would the Soviet Union be willing to enter into discussions on a moratorium after the United States completes its modernization and improvement program on its nuclear weapons?

[Korniyenko in Russian, fading into translation] The very word moratorium, said Georgiy Korniyenko, both in English and in Russian means a stop to all nuclear testing and not the completion of a nuclear modernization program. I think Mr Loory should know this and his question seems to be rather misleading.

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NUCLEAR TESTING AND FREE ZONE PROPOSALS

PRAVDA WEEKLY REVIEW: TEST BAN, EUROPEAN NUCLEAR FREE ZONES

PM141521 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 13 Apr 86 First Edition p 4

[Nikolay Kurdyumov "International Review"]

[Excerpt] The past week demonstrated vividly and convincingly the two lines in international relations: the difference between the Soviet Union's peace-loving course, which was once again confirmed in M.S. Gorbachev's speech in Tolyatti, and the militarist policy of the United States.

The week began in conditions where the Soviet moratorium on nuclear explosions was in operation, as it had been for more than 8 months. The Soviet Union had prolonged the moratorium and stated that it would refrain from nuclear tests until the first nuclear explosion in the United States. The world and American public called on President R. Reagan to follow the Sovite example and thereby lay the foundations for an important stage in international relations and pave the way for curbing the arms race. But Washington did not heed the voice of reason: on 10 April, the United States carried out a nuclear explosion at the Nevada test range.

It was a challenge to all mankind, in pursuit of the crazy idea of achieving military-strategic superiority over the Soviet Union. Naturally, in this situation our government could not remain unconcerned. It stated that from now on it is free of the self-imposed unilateral commitment to refrain from carrying out nuclear blasts. In conditions of Washington's continuing nuclear explosions, the Soviet state cannot forego its security or that of its allies.

The statement says: "It is the Soviet Government's profound conviction that the problem of banning nuclear weapon tests is one of the most urgent tasks of today, and the Soviet Union will continue to struggle persistently for its resolution in the interests of ensuring international security and a reliable peace without nuclear weapons."

A Path of Recklessness

On the eve of this year, reflecting on the subject of "How can the atmosphere of Geneva be preserved?" one of the editors of U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT, a weekly which is very well disposed toward the Republic administration's

policy, noted reasonably that one practical measure which the President could have taken even before Christmas would have been the decision to join in the moratorium on nuclear explosions declared unilaterally by the Soviet Union. Such a step "in the interests of mankind," he noted, would be greeted with approval throughout the world. As for the "arguments" of the moratorium's opponents, such as the assertions that the Soviet Union cannot be trusted, these, the article points out, are refuted by more than 20 years of experience of the Soviet Union's observance of the 1963 treaty banning nuclear tests in the three environments. Tha author also asks, why not "jump at" the Soviet Union's readiness for on-site verification?

Indeed, if we are guided by the accords reached in Geneva and the joint statement that there will be no winners in a nuclear war, it would appear natural for the U.S. Administration to support the Soviet moratorium and go halfway to meet the peoples' expectations. After all, it is quite obvious that the conclusion of an agreement between the USSR and the United States on ending nuclear explosions would be of truly tremendous significance. It would place a barrier in the path of the improvement of nuclear weapons and make it possible to get the entire nuclear disarmament process moving, besides doing an enormous amount to promote the creation and strengthening of mutual trust and the normalization of the political climate.

The United States thus had a truly historic opportunity to follow the USSR's example and renounce the holding of tests last year and this, and even after 31 March. But people in the American capital preferred to follow a different path. Trampling on the shoots of hope that many millions of people were nurturing in every corner of the planet, they gave the order for the next nuclear explosions to be carried out.

Washington's crazy actions and imperial disregard for the aspirations of the people, including their own, demonstrated graphically who is who in world politics. Who really pursues a line of strengthening universal security, and who undermines it in every way. It is no accident that throughout the world people of the most diverse views and social positions are today coming together in the opinion expressed by the Indian newspaper PATRIOT. "By carrying out a nuclear test in the Nevada desert, President Reagan not only demonstrated the gulf existing between the U.S. President's statements on the desire to end the arms race and his actual deeds, but also showed that he did not pay the least attention to world public opinion."

It is not secret--and many American observers point to this--that the reason for the challenging obstructionist U.S. position on the question of tests lies in the Pentagon's desire to create new, improved types of weapons, including nuclear-excited laser weapons, for the implementation of the program of preparation for "star wars." This is confirmed by the latest request to Congress to allocate $1.9 billion for the modernization of the nuclear testing range in Nevada. Thus the United States is carrying out an unprecedented buildup of its strike missile potential. Military expert Rear Admiral (Yu. Karrol), retired, believes that in refusing to stop tests, Washington is hoping to achieve military superiority. Moreover this

is also noted by Defense Secretary C. Weinberger, as is clear from an article he published in the journal FOREIGN AFFAIRS, which formulates the directions of U.S. military policy for the nineties. Calling for the "introduction of new arms systems of the radical modification of existing ones," the Pentagon chief claims that the aim of this program of accelerated rearmament is for the United States to acquire superiority over the Soviet Union.

However, U.S. strategists are profoundly mistaken if they believe that the Soviet Union opposes the militarization of space and insists resolutely on the prohibition of space-strike weapons because of a fear of lagging behind. As the CPSU Central Committee general secretary stated at a meeting with workers in Tolyatti, it is time to stop building relations with the USSR on the basis of mistaken impressions and illusions. "One of the most dangerous of these illusions is that the Soviet Union's peaceful intentions and appeals are regarded as a sign of weakness. So this is how it is: You cannot exhaust us with the arms race, take us out of space, or outflank us in technology. No good will come of these attempts."

The Soviet Union will not allow itself to be caught unaware, and if necessary it will know how to find a convincing answer to the challenge issued to it, and not necessarily in space. But it is against that choice, against the absurd American logic of armaments. The Soviet Union is convinced that the road to peace and universal security lies not through building up arsenals of weapons, but through the quest for a way out of confrontation and the strengthening of trust. That is why it is in favor of a revival of the atmosphere of Geneva, in favor of a new summit meeting being a step forward and bringing practical results in the cause of ending the arms race.

Concern for Peace

In the great cause of the struggle against the nuclear threat, the Soviet Union invariably stands shoulder to shoulder with its true friends, the socialist countries. A concrete manifestation of this is the new initiative of the allied socialist countries--the proposal on creating nuclear-free zones in Europe.

As is noted in the appeal of the Warsaw Pact states to the European states, the United States, and Canada which was published the other day, resolute actions are now more necessary than ever in order to stop the arms race, go over to disarmament, and eliminate the nuclear threat.

The total elimination of the medium-range missiles of the USSR and the United States in Europe would be an exceptionally important initial step in the cause of ridding the European Continent of nuclear weapons. Equally topical at present is the creation of nuclear-free zones on the continent where the level of nuclear confrontation is higher and the risk of the accidental outbreak of nuclear war is greater than anywhere else.

Noting that the governments of a number of other European states also advocate the creation of nuclear-free zones in various parts of Europe, the Warsaw Pact states proceed on the basis that the implementation of proposals on the creation of such zones and their effectiveness depend to a great degree on the attitude of other states, above all nuclear states, and their commitment to strictly respect the status of nuclear-free zones. They note that the USSR expresses readiness to grant appropriate guarantees to the nuclear-free zones, and they expect the same attitude from the United States, as well as Britain and France.

The allied states, the document notes, welcome the efforts of the states concerned to create a nuclear-free zone in northern Europe, come out in support of the creation of a zone free of nuclear weapons in the Balkans. The states also support Sweden's proposals to create a corridor free of nuclear battlefield weapons in Europe along the line where the Warsaw Pact and NATO states meet. In this connection, they believe that with a view to increasing the effectiveness of the corridor, it should be extended on both sides to take into account the tactical and technical characteristics of these weapons. The creation of such a corridor could begin with central Europe. Appealing to the states of Europe, the United States, and Canada to undertake energetic actions to implement proposals on creating zones free of nuclear weapons, the Warsaw Pact states expressed the conviction that the creation of such zones would be an important step along the path toward ensuring the peoples' security and delivering Europe from nuclear weapoms.

The world press is now widely discussing the USSR's proposal on the mutual withdrawal of the Soviet and U.S. naval fleets from the Mediterranean. This problem has become particularly topical now that the United States has started its latest campaign of threats against Libya and U.S. ships are being brought up to that country's shores.

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NUCLEAR TESTING AND FREE ZONE PROPOSALS

USSR: CONTINUED ATTACKS ON U.S. APRIL TESTS

U.S. Militarism 'Threat to Peace'

PM141600 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 6 Apr 86 Second Edition p 3

[A. Leontyev article under the "Publicist's Comment" rubric: "Ordering Explosions"]

[Text] Some time ago a millionaire senator, known for his links with the Pentagon, said in reply to a journalist's question on whether the testing of new weapons would affect the Soviet-U.S. talks in Geneva: "I do not care what effect it has. The main thing is that it meets the basic aims of the United States." Millionaires are primarily interested in profits. For the sake of profits they are prepared to play with fire in the most dangerous ways, even though the nuclear arms race now threatens to destroy all life on earth. War will not spare even those with the fattest checkbooks. Why, then, do many people in Washington show a truly casual attitude (it cannot be called anything else) toward the nuclear danger? After all, Americans need peace as much as anybody else.

It is still not too late to halt the nuclear race. How is this to be done? The first step could be to end nuclear explosions. That would create a barrier to the improvement of nuclear weapons and the creation of new types. This move would also be of tremendous political and, indeed, moral significance as an example of joint actions by two great powers -- the USSR and the United States -- on whom a special responsibility rests.

In trying to achieve that goal more quickly, on 6 August last year the Soviet Union imposed a unilateral moratorium on all nuclear explosions until the end of 1985. We proposed that the Americans accept the moratorium and make it permanent. Their answer was to invite us to a routine nuclear test in Nevada. Before the New Year we extend our moratorium for an additional 3 months. They answered with new explosions. Finally, and quite recently, the USSR decided to abide by that moratorium after March 31, also -- until the U.S. side's first explosion. Washington was offered a another chance to take a responsible decision -- that is, to end nuclear explosions. Otherwise, as M.S. Gorbachev warned, the Soviet Union would resume its tests. That point must be absolutely clear. We shall be forced to do that because we cannot forgo our security or the security of our allies.

At the same time, M.S. Gorbachev sent an appeal to President Reagan not to delay but to meet in the near future in a European capital with the aim of urgently discussing the question of ending nuclear tests. However, the White House hastily rejected even that proposal, saying that "summit meetings should examine the whole range of important questions between the two countries."

How much arrogance and conceit there is in those words and how little reason! But why not discuss at least one major, present-day question, which all the peoples are demanding be resolved most rapidly? As for the moratorium on nuclear explosions, the White House believes that those explosions should continue in order "to ensure the reliability, security, and effectiveness of the nuclear deterrent." For how long, one wonders? Until those explosions turn into a universal explosion, after which there will be no one left to deter any more?

When rejecting the Soviet proposal the White House stated, as it has stated in the past, that U.S. policy's ultimate goal is the complete elimination of nuclear weapons. However, as THE WASHINGTON POST reports, many of the 16 tests planned for this year are connected with the development [razrabotka] of new types of weapons, primarily for "star wars." What kind of "elimination" is that?

There is every evidence, NBC TV reports, that "an increasing number of people, including Americans, and, possibly, primarily Americans, want steps to be taken to control nuclear arms. But the U.S. Administration is now stockpiling nuclear armaments faster than at any time in the past 20 years."

Recently, Washington launched a series of deliberate acts of provocation aimed at complicating the the international situation and arousing chauvinist hysteria in the United States. Aggression against the heroic Nicaraguan people was increased to howls about the Soviet and Cuban "threat." U.S. aircraft carriers were dispatched to Libya's shores. Modern weapons are being supplied to counterrevolutionary gangs in Afghanistan and Angola. To justify the aggressive actions they rapidly devised the doctrine of "neoglobalism" -- a doctrine of interference, strong-arm pressure, military adventures, and banditry. It is now particularly clear just who is who in world politics and who needs acts of provocation and nuclear explosions. Militarism, whose ideology prevails in the leading imperialist countries, has completely unmasked itself. It poses a heightened threat to peace. This proves once again that you must struggle for peace and know how to defend it.

'Criminal Disregard'

LD101706 Moscow TASS in English 1557 GMT 10 Apr 86

[Text] Washington, 10 Apr (TASS)--Despite the calls of the world and American public for an end to the testing of new nuclear weapons, the United States conducted a scheduled nuclear test at the test range in Nevada today.

Official spokesman for the U.S. Department of Energy Dave Miller told a TASS correspondent that the test, code-named Mighty Oak, is the second in a series of officially announced tests this year.

In all, according to him, the United States conducted 648 officially announced nuclear tests since 1951.

The latest blast in Nevada has vividly demonstrated to all peace forces of this planet the criminal disregard of the Washington Administration for the calls of the American and world public upon the U.S. to accede to the Soviet Union-announced moratorium on all nuclear blasts, and by doing so, to open up the road toward curbing the arms race and preventing its transfer to outer space.

'Adventurous', Tied to SDI

LD102156 Moscow TASS in English 0755 GMT 10 Apr 86

[Text] Moscow, 10 Apr (TASS)--Academician Kochetkov, a well-known Soviet chemist, has stated in a TASS interview that it is symbolic that Washington chose for its underground nuclear tests the area of Las Vegas which is world-famous for its gambling houses. However, in the gambling with underground nuclear explosions conducted by adventuristically-mined Pentagon generals the statkes are much higher, for they endagner the destiny of mankind in general.

Academician Kochetkov recalled that by today the U.S. had conducted at least 200 nuclear explosions more than the Soviet Union. And still it continues to stage nuclear tests, evoking the indignation of millions of people who do not want war, who do not want their children to perish in a nuclear conflagration.

Today the problem of putting an end to nuclear tests is in the center of attention of peoples the world over. The demands on the immediate termination of nuclear explosions are coming from everywhere--from congressmen, scientists, workers and even children.

However, Washington does not give up nuclear weapons tests. It is in a hurry to create new, far more dangerous weapons. According to academician Kochetkov, it is an open secret that the Pentagon needs the explosions for producing space weapons. Its ultimate goal is to put the Sword of Damocles over mankind.

Since August 6, 1985, the Soviet Union introduced a moratorium on all the nuclear explosions. It urged the U.S. to follow its example in order to make the moratorium permanent, eternal. The Reagan Administration responded to this peaceful act by issuing an invitation to the next nuclear test in Nevada. Naturally, the Soviet Union turned down the invitation.

UN Envoy's News Conference

LD121115 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0324 GMT 12 Apr 86

[Text] New York, 12 Apr (TASS) -- The statement the Soviet Government issued in connection with the USA's carrying out a nuclear explosion on 10 April has aroused a resounding response at the United Nations. As Yu. Dubinin, the USSR's permanent representative at the United Nations stated at a press conference it is appropriate to recall within UN walls that the USSR's declaration and continuation of the unilateral moratorium on any nuclear explosions took into account of the frequent UN General Assembly appeals approved by the votes of almost all UN members. The USSR will per-

sist in conducting a principled policy aimed at banning the testing of nuclear weapons and concluding the appropriate international treaty. This policy is in accord with the hopes of the peoples and is totally in harmony with UN decisions.

Yu. Dubinin expressed the hope that the urgent problem of ceasing nuclear tests would continue to occupy an important place in UN activity and in the personal efforts of its secretary general. The USSR confirms its proposal on immediately starting talks in any form on the total banning of nuclear weapons tests: within the framework of the Geneva disarmament conference, the trilateral talks among the USSR, United States and Great Britain, or bilateral Soviet-U.S. talks. Moreover, the USSR is ready to undertake, jointly with other countries, the necessary steps to extend the Moscow treaty banning nuclear weapons tests in the atmosphere, in space, and underwater to include underground tests, also, as the 40th session of the UN General Assembly had urged the USSR's permanent representative stressed.

Test Shows 'Arrogance'

PM151832 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 12 Apr 86 Morning Edition p 5

[Yu. Bandura article: "Challenge to the World's Peoples" -- first paragraph is TASS report]

[Text] Washington -- The United States held another nuclear explosion 10 April at the Nevada test site. An official U.S. Department of Energy spokesman reported that the test, held under the code name "Mighty Oak," was the second officially announced test this year.

... The Soviet moratorium on nuclear explosions was already into its 9th month. There was expectation of a U.S. response. Strictly speaking, Washington did respond. It responded arrogantly and provocatively. It responded with nuclear tests. On average one test for each month.

Each explosion in Nevada generated alarm around the world. But hope was maintained. It was maintained because it was carefully preserved by Moscow. It preserved its restraint, its courage, and its faith in Washington's ability to heed the voice of reason.

This hope was not justified.

The explosion, judging by preliminary data, was not a very powerful one: U.S. experts estimate its yield at 1.3 kilotons -- approximately 10 times weaker than the explosion that destroyed Hiroshima some 40 years ago. By any standards it was a small explosion. But it was nuclear. And although many people in Las Vegas, just 150 km from the site of the explosion, did not even feel the earth shake, the explosions shook the entire planet. It was shaken by the White House's criminal indifference to mankind's demands. It was shaken by the hypocrisy of the administration, which along with the nuclear device exploded in Nevada the vestiges of faith in its love of peace. It was shaken by Washington's overt reluctance to conduct an honest dialogue with Moscow on an equal footing.

Relatively little time has passed since the U.S. President approved the joint Soviet-U.S. statement in Geneva, which stated: "... The sides, recognizing the special responsibility of the USSR and the United States in the cause of maintaining peace, state that nuclear war must never be unleashed; there can be no winners in one." In this document the head of the Washington administration shared with the Soviet leader the pledge not to strive to achieve military supremacy.

Approved by R. Reagan, this statement remains in force today. But it has been clouded by the haze of continuing nuclear explosions. Explosions, of which each is a step away from the Geneva accords and a step toward the mirage of military superiority over the USSR.

It is worth noting that each of these steps concludes with the evident intention to challenge the Soviet Union. The conviction is formed that Washington is entirely consciously and extremely overtly avoiding any of Moscow's constructive proposals and answering each of our initiatives, each good-will gesture, each attempt to bring positions closer together with a leap in the diametrically opposite direction. It is going as far away as it can from the accords which the peoples expect from the Soviet Union and the United States.

Through these actions Washington not only reveals itself as a dialogue partner whose word cannot be relied upon and whose peace-loving assertions can in no way be trusted. The question arises: Is it possible to deal with Washington at all? The 10 April explosion denotes an arrogant attitude toward world public opinion. It is an invitation to everybody else to continue the arms race. But are the peoples really demanding that?

The world's fate is not in the nuclear tunnels of Nevada. For the moment it is in the hands of mankind itself. And mankind must have enough courage and strength to defend itself and its descendants from adventurism aimed at achieving thermonuclear hegemony over our fragile planet. There is no alternative to continuing the struggle for peace and to stepping up the struggle for survival.

'Insolent Challenge'

PM141443 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 12 Apr 86 First Edition p 5

[Own correspondent A. Tolkunov dispatch under the general headline "Blow to the Peoples' Hopes: The United States Has Conducted a New Nuclear Explosion in Nevada": "An Irresponsible Step"]

[Text] New York, 11 Apr -- A crimson dawn broke over the Nevada desert. In a symbolic act of civil disobedience Americans crossed the test range perimeter one after another. Several activists from Greenpeace, the antinuclear organization, has already infiltrated the range in protest at the explosion being prepared there. They were immediately arrested. In all, around 100 people were arrested. Demonstrations against the tests have been held in many U.S. cities....

But the bomb was still detonated. Why? According to the official statement, this U.S. explosion, the ninth during the Soviet Union's unilateral moratorium, was necessary. Why? To develop [rzrabotka] new warheads for the MX ICBM's and for the Trident-2 missiles for submarines. These and subsequent tests planned for the near future will provide an opportunity to "check out" the new systems' ability to survive a nuclear strike and will be designed to "trigger" an X-ray laser -- one of the main components of the "star wars weapons" that are being developed [razrabatyvat].

For more than 8 months now our country, fulfilling its unilateral moratorium, has urged the elaboration of an all-embracing treaty and has put forward more and more new initiatives in this sphere. We have sincerely striven to realize the hopes for a peaceful nonnuclear future for all peoples on earth.

Our appeal has not been heeded. And it was not heeded because some people still clung to the hope of achieving strategic superiority.

That is why there is now such feverish activity in the Pentagon, the Livermore, and Los Alamos nuclear laboratories, and the headquarters of the largest nuclear subcontractors. The arms race is being launched not only on earth but also in space -- after all, the new explosions are already intended for the development [razrabotka] of "star wars weaponry."

Such is Washington's irresponsible course and the White House's insolent challenge to all mankind.

U.S. 'Nuclear Madness'

PM150951 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 13 Apr 86 First Edition p 3

[Colonel M. Ponomarev "Military-Political Review": "Against the Nuclear Madness"]

[Text] The nuclear explosion code-named "Mighty Oak" which rocked the test site in Nevada on Thursday once again lit up the very essence of Washington's policy. It exposed it as utterly brazen, high-handed, and characterized by a total disregard for the opinion of the world community and its own people. In sanctioning this explosion, the White House has demonstrated to the peoples of the world that the U.S. ruling group overtly puts the interests of the U.S. military-industrial circles before the interests of the whole of mankind.

The world community responded to Washington's provocative actions with a storm of anger. Illusions turned to dust -- the illusions of people who despite facts to the contrary still believed until a few days ago that the U.S. Administration was capable of heeding the voice of reason, that ultimately it would join the moratorium on all nuclear explosions introduced by the Soviet Union more than 8 months ago. The irresponsible actions of the U.S. Government are regarded everywhere as an overt challenge not just to the Soviet Union but also to the peoples of all continents, to the world as a whole.

Blinded by its unrealizable dream of military-strategic superiority over the Soviet Union, the Pentagon is demonstratively declaring its plans to proceed with the implementation of its nuclear test program with the aim of improving existing mass destruction systems and creating [sozdaniye] new such systems. An explosion code-named "Jefferson" is scheduled to take place on 23-24 April, THE WASHINGTON POST has reported. In all, another 13 nuclear explosions are planned this year, not counting the two which have already been carried out. And many of them will be experiments with nuclear devices within the framework of the program for the creation [sozdaniye] of "star wars" weapons, that is, space strike arms -- which, incidentally, was the case with the explosion just carried out.

This is the harsh reality. And it bears out again and again how well-founded and topical the following conclusion drawn by the 27th CPSU Congress is: At no time during the postwar decades has the situation in the world been so explosive and unfavorable. Indeed, the arms race unleashed by the United States and its allies in the vain hope of taking social revenge and the development of military technology have brought the world to a critical point.

The Soviet Union poses the question as follows: Is it possible to overcome the negative trends in the development of today's contradictory yet interdependent world? Is it possible to deliver our planet from the threat of a nuclear catastrophe? It is possible to ensure that very complex international problems are resolved by political rather than military means; is it possible to ensure peaceful cooperation between states and peoples? And to all these questions a firm and unequivocal answer is given: Yes, it can be done. It can and must be done.

Furthermore, the USSR has indicated specific and feasible measures to achieve this end which accord with the innermost aspirations of the Soviet people and all other peoples. Our country is persistently questing for a way out of confrontation. To this end, the unilateral Soviet moratorium on nuclear explosions was extended twice and a proposal was put forward to open talks without delay on ending nuclear explosions altogether. Compromise proposals meeting the West halfway were put forward at the conferences in Vienna and Stockholm. In the 15 January 1986 statement by the CPSU Central Committee general secretary a specific and clear plan was set forth for the elimination of mass destruction weapons and the reduction of other arms to limits essential for defense, and large-scale proposals relating to other topical questions were also outlined. A compromise option relating to medium-range missiles and European-zone operational-tactical nuclear weapons was put forward. The withdrawal of the Soviet and U.S. navies from the Mediterranean was proposed.

All these measures were endorsed by the 27th CPSU Congress. The congress drew up principles for the creation of a comprehensive system of international security. The congress defined our party's strategy in the international sphere -- a strategy whose aim is abundantly clear, namely to ensure the opportunity of working in conditions of lasting peace and freedom for the Soviet people. In the current situation, implementing this paramount demand of the party and Soviet foreign policy means above all halting the material preparations for war.

But this is precisely what the U.S. ruling circles do not want. Their actions pursue a diametrically opposed aim; they are forcing on material preparations for war, and primarily nuclear war, in every way. It is becoming increasingly obvious that Washington continues to lay stress on implementing a militarist line and to gamble on strength so as to be able to dictate its will to other countries and peoples. And with this end in mind it refuses to give up its attempts to perpetuate the confrontation situation. Furthermore, it is not embarrassed to speak about this openly.

I would like to recall a recent article by the U.S. defense secretary published in the journal FOREIGN AFFAIRS [KRASNAYA ZVEZDA reported it earlier). It is in the nature of a program document. It defines the main spheres of U.S. military policy in the nineties, that is, for the period through the end of the 20th century. A simple enumeration speaks for itself.

First, the notorious "Strategic Defense Initiative" [SDI] -- in other words, the extension of the arms race to space, the deployment of strike arms in earth orbit, and U.S. acquisition of a first-strike nuclear capability (this is what the article says: SDI in conjuction with the nuclear "deterrent"). Second, the use of military force in conjunction with "deterrence" by means of conventional arms. Third -- and only third! -- "the strategy of arms reduction and control", but even here with the proviso that talks on these problems should be conducted from a "position of strength." And fourth, once again "the strategy of rivalry" based on the "introduction of new weapons systems or a radical modernization of existing systems" to acquire the same old "relative superiority" over the Soviet Union, pursuing the same old objective of confrontation and the undermining of military and strategic parity -- strategic chaos, that is, in all areas.

It is quite obvious that the Washington administration's real aim is not the reduction and elimination of nuclear arsenals but, on the contrary, their buildup and the creation of new, even more destructive types of weapons.

According to THE WASHINGTON POST, the Reagan administration is implementing the biggest nuclear arms production program in 20 years. And at the same time it is seeking the appropriation of additional funds for the expansion of production facilities in order to ensure that weapons of this kind are produced on an even bigger scale during the nineties. The entire U.S. nuclear weapon production complex, which comprises seven factories, three arms development [sozdaniye] research establishments, and the test site in Nevada will be subject to modernization and reconstruction.

Even now new nuclear warheads for the MX ICBM's, Pershing-2 medium-range ballistic missiles, air-, ground-, and sea-launched cruise missiles, 203.2-mm artillery shells, two modifications of tactical aviation bombs, and a new strategic aviation bomb are being manufactured. While 155-mm nuclear artillery shells, warheads for the Trident-2 nuclear submarine missiles, and warheads for ASW defense missiles and depth charges are either in the development stage or the production organization stage.

In the budget for fiscal 1987 the Reagan administration has requested $8.2 billion for nuclear weapons, which is approximately 150 percent more than was spent for the same purpose during the last year of the Carter administration. The plans for new construction and expansion of the U.S. nuclear weapon production complex, the newspaper notes, will make it possible to produce more than 2,000 of these weapons per year. While the creation of new research establishments will make it possible to conduct large-scale studies of the feasibility of using the energy of nuclear explosions in space strike-weapons under the "star wars" program.

However, even without this, U.S. rearmament is under way in all areas and is being implemented at a forced pace. In the last 3 years alone, THE NEW YORK TIMES wrote, 1,080 nuclear cruise missiles for B-52 bombers have been added to the U.S. arsenal, and in the near future their number will be brought up to 1,500. The U.S. Air Force has already received the new B-1B strategic bomber, and another -- the Stealth -- is in the pipeline. THE MX ICBM's are beginning to arrive ahead of schedule. The development [razrabotka] of another missile -- the Midgetman -- is nearly complete. The situation is similar in all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces.

Do people in the United States not understand where all this could lead? Well of course, they obviously do understand. But it is common knowledge that the rate of profit in the U.S. military industry is 50 percent, sometimes even 100 percent above the average for the country as a whole. This is the main incentive for capital to be channeled primarily into the production of instruments of death. And the government, the administration, which acts as the monopolies' executive committee, uses its policy to encourage and expand demand for these instruments. Every means is considered suitable, from "neoglobalism," the latest doctrine, through gambling on regional conflicts and efforts to exacerbate and expand them, demagogical arguments about the "need to protect U.S. national interests" in various parts of the world, to international terrorism elevated to the rank of Washington's state policy and intimidation with the notorious "Soviet military threat."

There is no need to repeat what serious implications all these facts have and what a threat to mankind is posed by the U.S. ruling circles' militarist course.

The Soviet Union assesses the prevailing situation realistically. Since, despite all the USSR's warnings, another nuclear test has been carried out in the United States, the Soviet Union has declared that it no longer considers itself bound by its unilateral pledge to refrain from carrying out nuclear explosions. The Soviet state cannot scarifice its own security and the security of its allies.

However, the prevailing situation will not prevent the USSR from continuing its quest for a way out of the confrontation situation and for a switch to peaceful, civilized relations. The Soviet Union is declaring its readinesss to return to the question of a mutual moratorium on nuclear explosions at any time, provided that the U.S. Government pledges to refrain from carrying out these explosions. After all, the problem of banning nuclear weapons tests is one of the most pressing problems and the USSR will continue to struggle persistently for its solution in the interests of ensuring international security and lasting peace without nuclear weapons.

However, Washington must know that in deciding its policy, the Soviet Union proceeds from a sober assessment of the whole range of real factors. We will not be caught unaware. The Soviet state has proved more than once that it is able to meet any challenge. Should it prove necessary, it will respond as appropriate this time too. Soviet people are well aware of the potential of modern science and their own potential. There is nothing that the United States can do that the Soviet Union cannot.

One would like to believe that Washington has not spoken its last word yet. One would like the United States too to take a step forward along the path of halting the arms race.

Reason must triumph over the nuclear madness.

'Jeering at Common Sense'

LD141523 Moscow TASS in English 1402 GMT 14 Apr 86

[Text] Moscow April 14 TASS -- Follows commentary by Vladimir Bogachev, TASS military news analyst:

The U.S. Administration declares in public that the ultimate goal of the United States is the total elimination of nuclear weapons, but at the same time announces its plans to expand the American plants producing nuclear materials for missile warheads, bombs and artillery shells. President Reagan urges physicists to pool their efforts so as to ensure the use of the atom solely for mankind's benefit, and soon after that orders a modernization of a nuclear test range, which will cost the American taxpayers almost two billion dollars.

As if jeering at the common sense of the Americans, the U.S. Administration claims that the sole reliable way to disarmament lies through a build-up of nuclear weapons by the United States. He also maintains that a militarisation of outer space can be prevented only by placing thousands of nuclear systems, many of which will be tipped with nuclear warheads, in near-earth space.

If one is to believe Washington, to make the nuclear weapons "obsolete" they should be first modernized, and in order to make them "powerless" it is necessary to increase the yield and accuracy of the American nuclear warheads. In conformity with that reckless concept the U.S. Administration categorically refused to follow the Soviet Union's

example and put an end to all nuclear blasts, motivating its decision by the claim that renunciation of nuclear testing will prevent a modernization of American nuclear weapons. This stand by Washington most clearly reveals the real essence of the American "disarmament concept."

The Soviet Government is deeply convinced that an end to nuclear explosions would strongly slow down the nuclear weapons race, would make it possible to start practically eliminating that mass destruction weapon. For almost nine months the USSR refrained from conducting nuclear explosions, thus giving the U.S. Administration a chance to confirm through practical actions its statements about the striving for a nuclear-free world, and join in the Soviet moratorium.

The general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee has proposed the U.S. President to meet soon in one of the European capitals to reach agreement on an end to nuclear testing. Washington's answer to that proposal was yet another nuclear explosion in Nevada, which demonstrated for the whole world to see its moral and political weakness and placed the interests of the military-industrial complex above those of the American people.

Under these conditions the Soviet Union was forced to announce that from now on it is free from its unilateral commitment to refrain from any nuclear explosions. At the same time the Soviet Union will further persistently press ahead for the resolution of the problem of testing in the interests of the whole mankind.

The USSR is prepared for any form of talks with the USA on that issue, for any type of agreement provided things go towards reaching agreement on a ban on nuclear explosions.

U.S. Planning Another Test

LD160644 Moscow TASS in English 0631 GMT 16 Apr 86

[Text] Washington April 16 TASS -- The United States is going to set off yet another nuclear explosion within the next few days, THE WASHINGTON POST reported today, quoting well-informed sources.

It will be the third nuclear test this year.

Riding roughshod over international public opinion, the Washington administration, according to press reports, intends to stage a total of at least 15 nuclear blasts this year.

The testing program is connected in many ways with the development of a partially space-based multi-tier missile defense.

U.S. Seeks Military Superiority

LD192111 Moscow TASS in English 2055 GMT 19 Apr 86

[Text] Moscow, 19 Apr (TASS)--Follows commentary by Leonid Ponomarev, a TASS political news analyst:

The U.S. Administration is preparing to conduct another three test of new types of nuclear weapons in Nevada state, the newspaper SAN FRANCISCO EXAMINER said. All of these tests are to be conducted before the end of this month. On March 22 and April 10 two sinister nuclear tests were held in the same proving range, despite the fact that the Soviet Union has refrained from any nuclear explosions for more than eight months now.

The actions of the U.S. Administration clearly show that it continues to be guided by selfish, imperial ambitions, in its striving to ensure military superiority over the Soviet Union. Addressing the local Republican Party activists in New York yesterday, President Reagan said that the United States needed a powerful and unexcelled force. In other words, the USA is out to ensure for itself military superiority over the rest of the world in order to be able to pursue the policy of hegemonism and state-sponsored terrorism with impunity.

But this statement in New York is in conflict with the stand taken by the U.S. President at Geneva. At the Soviet-American summit meeting he put his signature under a joint statement, saying, among other things, that the USSR and the USA will not seek to achieve military superiority. As we see, what was proclaimed at Geneva and what President Reagan declared in New York yesterday are mutually exclusive things. One cannot help asking in this connection in what measure one can trust the international commitments of the United States.

The continued nuclear testing by the United States, in whose course new types of mass destruction weapons are practised and perfected, is not only an open challenge to the Soviet Union, but also to the peoples of all continents, the world as a whole.

The Soviet Union has repeatedly given the U.S. Administration a chance to confirm by practical actions its statement on the striving for a nuclear-free world, and join in the Soviet moratorium on nuclear explosions. They in Washington are disregarding this opportunity.

Contrary to the vital interests and aspirations of all people, including the American people, the United States leaders have embarked on actually undermining the Geneva Agreement. Their actions further complicate the tense as it is international situation.

22 April Test Set

LD211021 Moscow TASS in English 1014 GMT 21 Apr 86

[Text] New York April 21 TASS -- The UPI news agency reported today quoting Jim Boyer, U.S. Department of Energy spokesman, that the second nuclear explosion planned by the Pentagon was to be conducted tomorrow, Tuesday morning [22 April] at a test site in Nevada.

The new test is codenames "Jefferson." A nuclear device with a capacity 20-150 kilotons is buried at a depth of 600 m at a test site in Nevada, 167 km north-west of Las Vegas.

Test 'Undermining' Geneva

LD221548 Moscow TASS in English 1544 GMT 22 Apr 86

[Text] Washington, April 22 TASS -- The United States has conducted another nuclear explosion at the range in Nevada. The explosion's yield is from 20 to 150 kilotons. This is the third nuclear explosion conducted by the United States this year. Disregarding vital interests and aspirations of all peoples, including its own people, Washington took the road of the actual undermining of the Geneva arrangements, resorted to actions that complicate still more the tense situation in the world arena. The nuclear explosions in Nevada dash the unique chance to set a real beginning to the disarmament process.

Administration 'Distorts Facts'

LD221637 Moscow TASS in English 1604 GMT 22 Apr 86

[Text] Washington April 22 TASS -- Despite widespread protests by the American and international public the United States conducted a new nuclear weapon test in Nevada. The yield of the blast ranged from 20 to 150 kilotons, it was reported by a spokesman of the United States Department of Energy. This is already the third officially announced nuclear test in the United States this year.

As is known, the Reagan administration has rejected the Soviet proposal to impose a mutual moratorium on all nuclear explosions which could become an important step towards curbing the nuclear arms race. Washington contends that the United States needs the continuation of nuclear tests to overcome its "lag" behind the USSR in this field. But American specialists themselves say tht no such U.S. lag in the field of nuclear tests exists. So the administration openly distorts facts in order to justify the continued buildup of nuclear arsenals in the United States and the creation of even deadlier weapons systems.

U.S. 'Dreaming' of Superiority

LD221744 Moscow TASS in English 1719 GMT 22 Apr 86

[Text] Moscow April 22 TASS -- TASS military news analyst Vladimir Chernyshev writes:

A new nuclear blast sounded in Nevada today. This was already the third officially announced nuclear test in the United States this year.

While continuing nuclear weapon tests contrary to the demands of peoples the United States Administration invents such illogical justifications for its peace-endangering policy that this amazes even the worldly-wise legislators on Capitol Hill. Take, for instance, the latest "invention" - the letter from the State Department to the members of Congress who are the most vigorous critics of nuclear tests. Made public only recently, it sets forth two really staggering theses.

First of all, a comprehensive nuclear test ban might "encourage" non-nuclear states to develop their own nuclear arms. The international public has always thought the opposite, that a total ban on nuclear tests would be an important step to preventing nuclear proliferation. But it follows from the "discovery" made by the present United States Administration that the more nuclear explosions are conducted in the world the smaller becomes the probability of the development of nuclear arms. This "conclusion" is akin to the White House "postulate" according to which the higher are the mountains of weapons the more there is security.

The second thesis of the Washington administration is just as distant from elementary logic. According to it a total ban on nuclear tests will "compel" countries already possessing nuclear arms to increase their nuclear arsenals. The people in Washington simply refuse to admit that tests are a sort of accelerator of the nuclear arms race. But one does not have to be a specialist in military matters to understand that it is testing that helps develop new types and systems of weapons of mass annihilation and also modernise existing systems. An end to testing would have frozen this process and with time the nuclear arms race would altogether become impossible. The matter is that the United States Administration is dreaming of military superiority and for this reason needs ever new nuclear arms and, consequently, ever new nuclear explosions. The people in Washington have learned to live with nuclear arms and, judging by everything, see no perspective other than continuing the arms race.

Test Shows U.S. Aims

LD222138 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1700 GMT 22 Apr 86

[Commentary by Political Observer Valentin Zorin from the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] Hello, comrades. The latest underground nuclear test at the Nevada proving ground is more than just another military-technical measure carried out by the Pentagon. We have here a serious act with both purely military and far-reaching political aims.

As for the military aspect, the continuation of a series of nuclear weapons tests testifies to the fact that Washington is demonstrating, not only by diplomatic notes with nebulous phrasing, but also by unambiguous practical action, that it is not ready to accept the peace-loving initiatives of the Soviet Union, which has set forth a realistic plan to rid mankind of all nuclear arsenals by the year 2000. Washington neither wished nor knew how to take advantage of the unique opportunities offered by the moratorium on nuclear test that the Soviet Union implemented for almost 9 months, and set about accelerating its tests again -- in other words, implementing steps to press ahead with the nuclear arms race.

In the feverish haste with which Washington is acting in this direction there is a substantial political aspect. The Soviet moratorium was a powerful catalyst that sharply boosted the antiwar movement throughout the world, including in the United States. The scale of this movement and its growing influence threatened to drive the Washington administration into a corner. A cynical challenge resulted: having embarked upon a new series of nuclear tests, to confront peace-loving forces with a fait accompli and let it be understood that further talk of ending nuclear tests lacks any prospect, thus insuring for themselves freedom of action in further accelerating the arms race -- this is evidently the design of that part of the Washington leadership that rejects the very notion of constructive steps in the direction of Soviet-U.S. accords aimed at seeking mutually acceptable political solutions.

One other factor should be borne in mind. At this time, at this very moment, the Reagan administration is striving to obtain record military allocations from Congress. For this a particular political atmosphere is essential. Accelerating nuclear testing and the war hysteria surrounding Libya, and whipping up the anti-Nicaraguan campaign -- according to the plans of the Washington agency of the military-industrial complex -- all this creates the political background necessary for this.

All this is so. All this has happened many times before in Washington, there is nothing new about it. What is new is the atmosphere that has arisen in the world as a result of the Soviet Union's political initiatives, as well as a growing level of awareness and a sense of responsibility among the broadest masses. It is for this reason that this time Washington's usual schemes may not work as well as they used to. The latest nuclear blasts on the Nevada proving ground are, in present conditions, certainly not the last word in the political situation that is taking shape in the world.

Tests Accelerate SDI

LD221728 Moscow TASS in English 1645 GMT 22 Apr 86

[Text] Moscow April 22 TASS -- TASS news analyst Leonid Ponomarev writes:

Another 100 nuclear tests in Nevada? Yes, this is exactly the number of nuclear explosions planned to be made by the United States in the process of developing and perfecting different units and systems planned to be used within the star wars programme, writes the British newspaper GUARDIAN today, referring to the opinion of American specialists. The newspaper points out that despite President Reagan's assurances of "a non-nuclear" character of the star wars programme, considerable sums were allocated to the U.S. Department of Energy for testing the so-called "nuclear armaments of the third generation" in addition to expenditures for tests of such armaments of the first and second generations.

Since the beginning of the current year the United States has conducted two explosions at the atomic test range in Nevada, and today -- the third. Washington intends to hold a total of not less than 15 nuclear explosions this year. These figures speak for themselves, and patently show that the leaders of the U.S. Administration only in word advocate elimination of nuclear armaments. In deed, they are developing at a speedy rate ever new types of weapons of mass destruction. These developments are centered on the star wars programme, called the Strategic Defence Initiative.

Many specialists, including American, turn down the administration's assertions on "a purely defensive character" of the Strategic Defence Initiative and openly admit that the systems being developed within the star wars programme can and will be used above all in offensive purposes. This is the opinion of former assitant to the President for national security affairs Lieutenant General Brent Scowcroft who at Reagan's request headed in 1983 the presidential commission on strategic armaments. Most of the specialists, writes the newspaper BOSTON GLOBE, agree that the SDI will not lead to elimination of nuclear weapons but only to escalation of the nuclear arms race.

Washington, as a matter of fact, is conducting the course of such an escalation. As opposite to the stand of the White House, the Soviet leadership believes that termination of nuclear tests everywhere would signify a realistic step in curbing the nuclear arms race. Termination of tests would suspend perfection of nuclear weapons, its further modernisation. There is every indication that they in Washington are in a hurry to make SDI an irreversible phenomenon: They are pressing upon Congress for considerable allocations for development of weapons of "the third generation", such as X-ray laser, electro-magnetic guns, etc. It is exactly for that purpose that the Pentagon will need to conduct more than 100 nuclear explosions. And these might be followed by another series of blasts to test new weapons of mass destruction.

'Maniacal Stubbornness' Viewed

LD221648 Moscow TASS in English 1617 GMT 22 Apr 86

[Text] Washington 22 Apr (TASS)--TASS correspondent Nikolay Turkatenko writes:

It is with a maniacal stubbornness that the United States is speeding up its programme of nuclear tests. A new nuclear explosion was conducted today at the testing range in Nevada.

According to experts, it was intended to measure the impact of the blast wave during the release of nuclear energy. As is known, the use of such impact is a component part of the programme of developing systems of space arms directed against targets both on earth and in outer space.

The new nuclear blast in Nevada, code-named "Jefferson", is already the third this year and the tenth since the Soviet Union's announcement of a unilateral moratorium on all nuclear explosions with the aim of facilitating the speediest solution of the problem of putting a general and complete ban on nuclear tests throughout the world. In all, according to data of the United States Department of Energy, the United States has already conducted 649 officially announced nuclear explosions since 1951. On the eve of the blast in Nevada the Department of State announced the intention of the United States to further continue the programme of nuclear tests.

U.S. Lacks 'Political Will'

LD221959 Moscow TASS in English 1936 GMT 22 Apr 86

[Text] Moscow April 22 TASS -- TASS political news analyst Valentin Vasilets writes:

The United States has set off a new nuclear blast at the testing range in Nevada. It came as a clear and sinister answer to the expectations of those who were still hoping that Washington at long last would heed the voice of the international public demanding an end to nuclear tests.

Whatever debates were conducted in recent years about the most expedient ways of immediately stopping the arms race almost all specialists agree on one thing: It is hard to imagine a more effective beginning of this process than a termination of nuclear tests. Because the well-known purpose of tests is to develop new, even more dangerous types and systems of weapons of mass annihilation. That is why such far-ranging circles of the public and influential politicians, including numerous members of the United States Congress, have united precisely around the demand to take such a cardinal step -- to stop the explosions. That is exactly why the world was swept by a powerful wave of protests in support of demands for an end to the race towards the nuclear precipice. For the very same reason last summer the Soviet Union announced a unilateral end to all nuclear explosions in an attempt by force of its example to bring the United States to the path of restricting the arms race.

After the introduction of the Soviet moratorium, when the attention of the whole world was again concentrated on the problems connected with this step, it became especially clear that there do not exist any really serious technical difficulties capable of obstructing the conclusion of a test-ban treaty. The groundlessness of the American Administration's standard reference to the impossibility of a reliable verification of compliance with such an agreement was convincingly demonstrated by American specialists themselves. For instance, Glenn Seaborg, a Nobel Prize winner and former chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, says that the United States has an absolutely reliable mechanism to verify and monitor explosions. Besides, he adds, the Soviet Union has proposed on-site inspections when necessary.

In short, all that is needed is political will. But it is this that Washington lacks. The so oft-repeated assurances by high-placed members of the Washington administration about their striving for arms control are undisguised hypocrisy. There is absolutely not one fact, not one concrete step that would confirm the existence of such a striving. At the same time one has to shut one's eyes so as not to see the numerous evidence of the Reagan administration's determination to accelerate the arms race, to impart a qualitatively new character to it by switching it to outer space.

The new blast in Nevada is the tenth officially announced U.S. test since the Soviet Union introduced its unilateral moratorium. The calls to reason have proved futile, the calls to Washington to understand that in the nuclear age it is absurd to count on the strengthening of its security by building up armaments and acquiring military superiority. The subsequent constructive steps of the Soviet Government when it extended - and again unilaterally - its moratorium have also failed to evoke a response from Washington. As it was stated by the Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, the explosions in Nevada have "cancelled a unique chance to give the disarmament process a real start". It appears that the philosophy of peace preached by Moscow remains an unknown science in Washington. The people there prefer to deify the military-industrial complex that shudders at the very thought of disarmament.

Weinberger: Tests to Continue

LD222228 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1407 GMT 22 Apr 86

[Text] The Reagan administration continues to steer a course of whipping up the arms race and boosting military spending. This has been borne out again by U.S. Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger's statement before the House Defense Appropriations Subcommittee.

The administration, he said, continues to be filled with firm determination to secure the constant strengthening U.S. possibilities in the field of securing national security. To justify the militarist course being put into effect by the current Washington administration, the defense minister could not find anything better than to resort once again to references to the mythical Soviet military threat.

Weinberger stressed that the administration intends first and foremost to continue the program for modernizing and improving the U.S. strategic forces. Its aim, as is well known, is to achieve the creation of the potential for inflicting a first nuclear strike on the territory of the USSR. Justifying Washington's aspiration to global military superiority, the Pentagon boss resorted to affirmations that the modernization of the U.S. nuclear arsenals would create a propitious atmosphere for the talks on reducing armaments with the Soviet Union. The defense minister also let it be understood that Washington, despite the wide-scale protests by the American and international public, would continue testing of nuclear weapons.

'Graphic Evidence' of U.S. Aims

LD230910 Moscow TASS in English 0610 GMT 23 Apr 86

[Text] Moscow April 23 TASS -- "Nuclear tests, conducted one after another, are a graphic evidence of the U.S. Administration's striving to continue the course towards confrontation, and deal a blow on the hopes of those Americans who expected a renunciation of the nuclear arms build-up policy and a responsible approach to the destiny of mankind", Andrey Tolkunov, PRAVDA's New York correspondent, writes in the newspaper. "Many of those people now become active opponents of the policy of the White House and are stating their resolute opposition to the Washington-chosen course."

The correspondent points out that the nuclear arms race continues to gather momentum in the United States. For example there is feverish excitement at the military plant of the Lockheed arms company in the Californian city of Santa Clara. The White House and the Congress have allocated next appropriations for the development of "Trident-2 D-5" supermissiles there. The supermissile will take the place of the "outdated" Trident-2 C-4 missile. The yield of 24 supermissiles on board a submarine is such that it could cause destruction equivalent to ravages brought on by wars in the entire history of mankind.

Mr Norris, Mr Cobrain, and Mr Arkin, experts in the field of nuclear strategy, report in their study that appropriations for the conduct of nuclear explosions have sharply increased of late. At least 1,800 warheads a year will come off the assembly lines of munitions factories in the coming years. "Pursuing the course towards the development of space strike systems, Washington is moving on to tests of nuclear-pumped X-ray lasers at the Nevada testing range", the correspondent points out. "Thus how the Nevada testing range is being drawn into the 'Star Wars' programme which leads to an uncontrolled arms race. The entire international community, including millions of sober-minded Americans, is now demanding that this vicious circle be broken", the correspondent emphasizes.

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CSO: 5200/1338

NUCLEAR TESTING AND FREE ZONE PROPOSALS

SOVIET PUBLIC GROUPS ASSAIL U.S. APRIL TESTS

Trade Unions Council

LD112050 Moscow TASS in English 1933 GMT 11 Apr 86

[Text] Moscow, 11 Apr (TASS)--Soviet trade unions have expressed indignation and strong protest in connection with the new nuclear explosion at the testing range in Nevada. It is stressed in a statement published here today by the All Union Central Council of Trade Unions (AUCCTU) that this action is a cynical challenge to all the peaceloving peoples of the world. Washington has again openly demonstrated its arrogant disregard for the clearly stated will of the world community.

The blast in Nevada is qualified in the statement as an expression of absolute political irresponsibility, as a crude provocation intended to further aggravate tension in the world and block roads leading to international security, a reduction of nuclear arsenals and strengthening of trust.

The American administration's actions bring the world still closer to the danger line, push it to a further escalation of the arms race which already now weighs down heavily on the shoulders of working people and puts a brake on the solution of many urgent social and economic problems of our time, the AUCCTU statement says.

Nuclear weapon tests should be stopped once and for all and the decision to this effect recorded in an appropriate treaty, it is stressed in the statement of Soviet trade unions.

Soviet Peace Fund

LD121432 Moscow TASS in English 1106 GMT 12 Apr 86

[Text] Moscow, 12 Apr (TASS)--The board of the Soviet Peace Fund (SPD), expressing the will of millions of participants in the SPF, has sent a protest telegram to President Ronald Reagan in connection with the U.S. Administration's provocative action--the nuclear test in Nevada. The Soviet public, the telgram says, is strongly condemning the intention of the White

House to go ahead with the nuclear test program and is demanding that the voice of reason be listened to and that a political decision which would meet the aspirations of all the peoples be taken.

Soviet Peace Committee

LD112012 Moscow TASS in English 1915 GMT 11 Apr 86

[Text] Moscow, 11 Apr (TASS)--A new nuclear explosion by the United States dashed the hopes of peoples, among them the peoples of the USSR and the U.S. for an end to nuclear testing. This is said in a message of the Soviet Peace Committee to the President of the United States.

The message condemns resolutely the intentions of the White House Administration to continue the program of nuclear testing, calls for heeding the voice of peoples and adopting a responsible decision meeting their aspirations and hopes.

World Youth Federation

LD112156 Moscow TASS in English 1838 GMT 11 Apr 86

[Text] Budapest, 11 Apr (TASS)--The nuclear explosion carried out by the U.S. is a challenge to world public opinion. Such actions are aimed at dealing a blow at the hopes of the peoples to achieve progress toward nuclear disarmament, the Bureau of the World Federation of Democratic Youth says in a telegram sent to U.S. President Ronald Reagan today.

Nuclear tests in Nevada, the telegram points out, show that the only thing craved by the U.S. is the nuclear arms race. The series of nuclear tests planned by Washington is at odds with the spirit of the Geneva summit. Denouncing these actions, the WFDY Bureau urges the U.S. Administration to renounce its course of nuclear self-annihilation and to join the efforts of the USSR and all the peace-loving forces of the world to achieve real progress toward nuclear weapons before the end of this century.

Leningraders Appeal to Reagan

LD111623 Moscow TASS in English 1521 GMT 11 Apr 86

[Text] Leningrad, 11 Apr (TASS)--Representatives of Leningrad's public organizations today handed over in the U.S. General Consultate in that city a statement addressed to U.S. President Ronald Reagan. The statement contains an appeal to call off new nuclear tests.

"Considering the wish of millions of people in various countries, the leadership of the Soviet Union extended twice the unilateral moratorium on nuclear explosions expecting that the United States would follow suit. The Leningraders learned with indignation about the latest nuclear explosions in Nevada state on 10 April. Workers, engineers, physicians, writers,

schoolchildren and students severely condemn this test and regard it as an open challenge to mankind."

Igor Gorbachev, deputy chairman of the Soviet Peace Committee and well-know theatrical figure, said that he and his friends came to the general consulate on a mission of peace. "We believe in the possibility of peaceful co-existence of states with different social systems. International tensions should be removed by joint action. It seems to us that the U.S. actions are illogical. It pays lip service to peace but indeed detonates a nuclear device. We express the hope that the U.S. Administration will follow the example of the Soviet Union, support its proposals and end nuclear tests", Igor Gorbachev said.

Vice-consul Daniel Grossman accepted the statement and assured that it would be handed over to the president.

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NUCLEAR TESTING AND FREE ZONE PROPOSALS

USSR: OPPOSITION IN U.S. TO CONTINUED TESTING NOTED

Test Draws Protests in U.S.

PM141906 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 12 Apr 86 Morning Edition p 5

[Own correspondent L. Koryavin Dispatch: "Explosion in Nevada and Explosion of Alarm"]

[Text] Washington -- The United States has held another nuclear test in Nevada. As soon as it was reported on ABC TV a title reading "Nuclear Test" appeared on the screen. But instead of shots of Nevada there were scenes showing zinc coffins covered with the Stars and Stripes. There had been a "slipup" -- the operators had played the wrong film. They showed excerpts from a report on the shipment to the United States of the remains of U.S. servicemen who died during the dirty war in Vietnam....

But the coffins were a convincing illustration of the report on the new test of the deadly weapon which threatens to turn the living earth into mankind's nuclear grave. In Pentagon circles it is being pointed out that the "experiment" of involving the current explosion in Nevada was to test the impact of radiation on missile warheads. No secret is made of the fact that the plans for improving nuclear weapons and testing them are intimately bound up with the program for expediting the production of components of the so-called "Strategic Defense Initiative," that is, with the creation of "star wars" weapons.

Nuclear explosions are organically linked with the creation of the so-called nuclear-charged X-ray laser to give these weapons unprecedented destructive force.

The Nevada test reflected the strategic concept of U.S. ruling circles, which are gambling on a "strong America." In U.S. militarist circles it is cynically stated that the present explosion in Nevada will "give away" to other tests to follow in the very near future -- 16 are planned in all, official U.S. Department of Energy circles are stressing.

The new nuclear tests in Nevada generated a wave of condemnation in the United States. In the region directly adjacent to the Nevada test site there are now more than 200 demonstrators who have stated that they are ready to prevent the explosion at the risk of their lives. The police have stopped them. But neither the police nor the U.S. authorities can stop the broad wave of protest which is currently sweeping over the United States in connection with the latest nuclear weapons test.

It was opposed by Senator Cranston, who stressed that U.S. nuclear policy is not in America's national interests.

Protest against the nuclear explosion is being voiced from the Nevada test site to Congress. The protesters are demanding that the United States heed the voice of reason and stop the tests, stop playing with fire.

Grassroots Opinion Cited

PM140849 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 10 Apr 86 First Edition p 4

[Own correspondent G. Vasilyev report: "Grassroots' Movement: Reasonable America Is Against Nuclear Explosions"]

[Text] New York, 9 Apr -- Before sitting down to write this report I looked through the latest newspapers which I had just bought as a street kiosk. My eye was immediately caught by a report in THE NEW YORK TIMES: "At the test range in Nevada preparations are underway for the next nuclear explosion. It will most likely take place in the next few days.

....Sometimes in Las Vegas, a city famous throughout America for its gaming houses, a distant rumble is heard, after which people feel a slight tremor of the ground beneath their feet. The dissolute rich fall silent for a minute and the roulette wheels stop for a moment. At the Nevada testing range, 70 miles northwest of Las Vegas, they are exploding nuclear devices and testing the latest types of weapons of mass destruction.

The once again of wheel of fortune spins and passions flare.

There is something symbolic about this juxtaposition of the gaming houses, bathed in neon light and gripped by feverish emotion, and thedeep underground silos where thermonuclear death rages. Something reminiscent of feasting at a time of plague. Something which becomes a symbol of the America of the Pentagonites, the weapons manufacturers, the "theorists" from right-wing "think tanks," all those fanatical fighters against communism who are prepared to jeopardize the future of the world, the future of mankind.

But in Nevada, as in any other American state, there are also completely ordinary people, people who work to earn their crust of bread, who raise their children, who are worried about their future in the shadow of nuclear apocalypse. They regard the underground shocks whose epicenter is in their neighborhood as a stimulus to action. I called the local section of the American peace test organization in Las Vegas. This association of peace-loving Americans became known to the country after mass demonstrations and acts of civic disobedience near the fence of the testing range last November, on the threshold of the Geneva summit conference.

"We are now preparing for new protest demonstrations," I was told by Nancy Hale, one of the organization's national coordinators. "Despite appeals from all over the world, the Pentagon is continuing its nuclear weapon tests. This is a challenge to world public opinion and a slap in the face for those Americans who are unequivocally in favor of ending explosions and of the United States responding with positive actions to the Soviet moratorium on all nuclear tests."

Millions of ordinary Americans, alarmed, worried, and indignant, speak through Nancy Hale, a mother of three who came to Nevada from her native Oregon to make what contribution she could to the great and noble cause of saving the world from the nuclear plague. And what do the experts think about all this, those who are capable of assessing the present situation from the viewpoint of the global problems of world policy?

Arthur Cox is well known in Washington, author of a number of books on Soviet-American relations and an expert in the sphere of military strategy. In a recent book Cox wrote about the great significance which would be attached to the conclusion of a Soviet-American treaty on a general nuclear test ban: "It would show the whole world the determination of the two great powers to end the nuclear arms race...What would be the point of trying to create costly new types of arms, if you could not test them?...The Soviets are ready to sign such a treaty tomorrow..."

"How do I assess the present situation? Extremely alarming, to put it mildly," Cox answered my question. "The U.S. Administration's categorical rejection of a moratorium and the Pentagon's intention of continuing nuclear explosions with a view to developing sophisticated types of arms are a blow against hopes for progress. Yet M.S. Gorbachev has clearly demonstrated that the Soviet Union is prepared for serious talks; it has extended the moratorium and agreed to certain forms of on-site inspection."

In Arthur Cox' opinion the White House's frankly negative position on the question of banning nuclear tests is the result of increased activeness by the extreme right and the most aggressive and militarist elements both within the administration and around it. The best-known representatives of these forces, he says, are Richard Perle, assistant secretary of defense; Fred Ikle, deputy Pentagon chief; Kenneth Adelman, chief of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency; General Abrahamson, leader of the SDI program, and, of course, their spiritual mentor, nuclear maniac and "father" of the hydrogen bomb, physicist Edward Teller. They believe that by mobilizing its economic and technological resources and using vast funds, the United States will forge ahead in sophisticated types of armaments, achieve a position of strategic superiority, and be able to dictate its will to the Soviet Union and the whole world.

"And what do you think?"

"I think that in present conditions, when mountains of nuclear explosives have been stockpiled, military-strategic superiority has become pointless. Nuclear weapons cannot be an instrument of reasonable foreign policy."

Arthur Cox heads the American Committee on East-West Accord. This is a public organization whose leaders include well-known Americans involved in Soviet-American relations, former ambassadors, military figures, big businessmen, and scientists. In Reagan's America today, these people have been "shut out" onto the periphery of the country's political life. But they are active and express their opinion, which reflects the sentiments of relatively large U.S. circles, those who are worried about Washington's policy of confrontation.

It is no exaggeration to say that the question of ending or continuing nuclear weapon tests is the focal point of the attention of millions of people today. People's attitude toward it has become the litmus paper by which the position of a praticular figure or organization on the main problem of our times can be defined very simply and highly accurately. The Soviet proposal to the United States together with the other nuclear

powers to reach agreement on ending nuclear explosions, a proposal backed up by the Soviet moratorium, opened up a real, effective path toward curbing the arms race. It is hard to submerge this proposal in the quagmire of sticky debates about individual types of arms and armed forces and about who has more of what -- debates which have become Washington's customary means of evading Soviet proposals without openly saying "no" to them.

The Soviet moratorium and the USSR's persistent efforts to bring the United States into the process of slowing down and then reversing the nuclear race could not fail to make a great impression on the American public. Seeking to counteract this effect, the U.S. Administration began to advance one pretext after another for saying "no" and escaping the blame. First they said that the United States was lagging behind the Soviet Union in terms of the number of nuclear tests carried out, and that therefore it must "catch up with" the USSR. This dishonest fabrication was speedily exposed. Having failed with one ruse, they started talking about the difficulties of verifying the observance of a nuclear test ban. But this "argument" did not last long either. The Soviet Union officially announced that it is prepared for certain forms of on-site monitoring of the observance of a possible agreement. And today, robbed of its last disguise, the White House states without beating about the bush: We will continue tests in order to create new types of arms.

THE WASHINGTON POST has just published an article by Walter Pinkus, saying that, as is clear from Energy Department budget documents, the Reagan administration, which is already financing the biggest American nuclear weapon production program in the last 20 years, seeks the appropriation of additional resources for the expansion of nuclear weapon production capacities capable of producing these weapons in still larger quantities in the nineties. Among other things, the author of the article indicates, the department seeks the appropriation of resources for the construction of modern new laboratories which will study the possibility of using the energy of nuclear explosions to create beam weapons within the framework of SDI.

The nuclear explosion carried out at the Nevada range 22 March aroused a wave of indignation which was felt throughout the country. The ostentatious, defiant step taken by the U.S. Administration on the eve of the expiry of the moratorium announced by the Soviet Union was seen by people of goodwill as a challenge to public opinion and an outrage against the Americans' post-Geneva hopes. People of various political views and different social positions are taking part in protests and acts aimed at bringing the rabid "hawks" to their senses: workers and housewives, students and office workers, politicians and religious figures.

I look through the newspapers of recent days.

New York. The city council of America's biggest megalopolis adopted a resolution calling on the Washington administration to join in the Soviet moratorium on nuclear tests and renounce the "star wars" program.

Washington. Representatives of a large group of American women's organizations are picketing the White House. In a letter to President Reagan they call on him "for the sake of our children and future generations to stop nuclear explosions... and enter into talks with the Soviet Union to conclude a treaty on a mutual, verifiable nuclear test ban."

I could cite more examples. Indeed, the confrontation over the question of a nuclear test ban has considerably "shaken" America. Actions in favor of curbing the nuclear genie have become a "grassroots movement," as they call it here. Even in small settlements, at the spring session of the municipal councils in the last few days one of the urgent problems of life under discussion has been that of how to influence the Reagan administration to respond positively to the Soviet Union's appeal for an end to nuclear tests.

Sentiments locally must be taken into account by the congressmen and senators, many of whom are soon to run for reelection. As already reported, at the end of February the U.S. House of Representatives adopted a resolution, after a fierce debate, calling on the President to immediately resume talks with the Soviet Union with a view to concluding a treaty on a general and complete nuclear weapon test ban. Preparations are now under way on Capitol Hill for the discussion of a draft resolution submitted to the House of Representatives by Patricia Schroeder (the draft already has 85 cosignatories) and a similar draft from Senators Cranston, Hatfield, Kerry, and Simon providing for the cessation of appropriations for American nuclear tests for as long as the USSR continues its moratorium.

All this -- the noisy debates on Capitol Hill, the private discussions in quite "backwoods" towns, the demonstrations by mass public organizations, the personal opinions expressed by well-known scientists and politicians -- indicates that America longs for the reason, common sense, and realism which are now in such short supply in the country's policy.

NEW YORK TIMES Cited

LD111331 Moscow TASS in English 1200 GMT 11 Apr 86

[Text] New York, 11 Apr (TASS)--After a two-day delay, the Reagan Administration has conducted a nuclear test that will cause the Soviet Union to end its testing moratorium and bring about a resumption of the wrong race between the two nuclear powers, the NEW YORK TIMES writes today.

The newspaper questions the scientific necessity of the nuclear test. Many experts, it says, assert that the desired information could have been obtained from computers.

David Brenner of the Columbia University Department of Radiation Oncology, for example, has pointed out in a letter to the editor of THE NEW YORK TIMES that the Livermore and Loz Alamos National Laboratories combined "constitute the biggest supercomputer facility in the world for simulating the explosion of a nuclear device without actually detonating (or even building) it."

Brenner noted that therefore the latest test was "a political, significance was its notification to Moscow that the Reagan administration intends to continue its nuclear buildup and the strategic arms race.

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NUCLEAR TESTING AND FREE ZONE PROPOSALS

TASS: FRG SOCIAL DEMOCRATS CRITICIZE U.S. TESTING

Egon Bahr Comments Cited

LD011517 Moscow TASS in English 1511 GMT 1 Apr 86

[Text] Bonn, 1 Apr (TASS)--Member of the Presidium of the board of the SDPG, chairman of the subcommittee for disarmament and arms control of the FRG Bundestag Egon Bahr has criticized the stand of the U.S. administration and the FRG Government with regard to banning nuclear weapon testing. Answering a question of a TASS correspondent at today's press conference here, Egon Bahr said that the U.S. says "no" to all attempts to arrest the spiralling of the arms race.

Egon Bahr condemned the disinclination of the U.S. Administration to join in the Soviet Union's unilateral moratorium on all nuclear explosions and also Washington's negative stand in answer to the proposal of general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Mikhail Gorbachev for a meeting with President of the United States Ronald Reagan to discuss the question of ending nuclear tests. The U.S. has no wish to end the testing on nuclear weapons. It speeds up the work in the framework of the "Strategic Defense Initiative", he said.

Egon Bahr emphasized that the FRG Government does not dare come out for a comprehensive ban on nuclear testing. He condemned the agreements on the FRG's participation in the "Strategic Defense Initiative" recently concluded by the FRG Government with the Washington Administration and noted that they had been endorsed bypassing parliament. If the Social Democrats come to power as a result of next year's election to Bundestag, the agreements on SDI signed by the present FRG Government will not be viewed as obligatory, he said.

Egon Bahr declared against the intention of the U.S. Administration to deploy binary chemical weapons on the FRG territory. He said that the FRG Government can play the decisive role in preventing a new spiral of the chemical arms race. If the FRG Government says "no" to binary weapons, no other European partner of the U.S. in NATO will say "yes" to this horrible kind of chemical weapons. The chairman of the Bundestag's subcommittee emphasized the need for creating in Central Europe a free zone from chemical weapons.

Willy Brandt

LD131856 Moscow TASS in English 1609 GMT 13 Apr 86

[Text] Bonn, 13 Apr (TASS)--Willy Brandt, chairman of the Social Democratic Party of Germany, has demanded that the U.S. Government immediately stop any nuclear explosions. Speaking at a regional party conference, he said that another nuclear explosions at a testing ground in Nevada had triggered off protests of the West German public.

According to Willy Brandt, people of good will regard this step taken by the U.S. as evidence of the intention to go on with the creation of new types of nuclear weapons, of the striving for achieving nuclear superiority over other countries of the world. He urged the West German Government to immediately demand that the U.S. Administration stop nuclear tests.

Herman Scheer

LD222332 Moscow TASS in English 1825 GMT 22 Apr 86

[Text] Bonn April 22 TASS -- The head of the working group for disarmament and arms control of the SPD [Social Democratic Party] faction in the Bundestag Defense Commission, Hermann Scheer, condemned the U.S. latest nuclear blast today. Every further U.S. nuclear weapon test, he said in a statement here, reduces chances for a turn to nuclear disarmament.

If the West German Government's statements about being interested in an end to nuclear explosions aren't all bluff, he added, Bonn should finally make initiatives towards this end in NATO. Scheer urged the government to table a proposal at the NATO ministerial council's session next May for an immediate end to nuclear weapon testing and to join efforts with Europeans and Canada to make certain that this proposal will be put into effect.

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NUCLEAR TESTING AND FREE ZONE PROPOSALS

CONSERVATIVE FINNISH NEWSPAPER VIEWS GORBACHEV TEST END BID

Helsinki UUSI SUOMI in Finnish 7 Apr 86 p 2

[Editorial: "Super Powers and Nuclear Tests']

[Text] An agreement on a partial ban on nuclear tests was concluded in 1963 already. In the nuclear non-proliferation treaty concluded 5 years later the nuclear powers specifically obligated themselves to negotiate disarmament and also a complete ban on nuclear testing. It was as though it were a price which the nuclear powers promised to pay to the countries refraining from the acquisition of nuclear weapons.

However, the promised price has not been paid. Indeed, negotiations were conducted on a nuclear test ban throughout the 1970s, but no results were achieved. Great Britain and the United States rejected a complete ban explaining that it would not be possible to monitor adherence to it by means of remote equipment. The Soviet Union, on the other hand, rejected on-site surveillance.

However, the meeting of experts held in connection with the 1972 Geneva Disarmament Committee confirmed that the development of seismic and other remote surveillance equipment had resolved the surveillance problem of a complete nuclear test ban. Since then there has been nothing to stand in the way of a complete nuclear test ban except the desire of the nuclear powers to continue testing. After Ronald Reagan became president, the United States has even openly admitted that as long as there are nuclear weapons, test detonations will also be necessary.

When the sad history of the nuclear test ban concept is recalled, there is reason to applaud the Soviet Union's recent policy. The Soviet Union unilaterally discontinued its own nuclear testing last summer already and has since then demanded that the United States and the other nuclear powers also follow its example.

However, a good thing can be harmed by promoting it by incorrect means. When Soviet Party leader Mikhail Gorbachev proposed on his country's television that he and Reagan should meet at the earliest possible date in some European capital city and reach an agreement on banning nuclear tests, it seemed clear that such an improvised gesture could not produce positive results.

Washington's acid reaction was that if there is, indeed, a desire to promote disarmament, there is reason to give less attention to propaganda intended for the general public and concentrate on negotiations. According to American sources, the Soviet Union has not budged in its positions and has not made any new concrete initiatives in the current round of negotiations in Geneva.

It is certainly not the first time that major initiatives have been made visibly public knowing that they will not lead to any results. Many American leaders have also used this tactic. In this way propaganda points can be won, but confidence is generally more effective from the point of view of results.

The pessimists were already afraid that with the offer of an immediate summit meeting Gorbachev, in fact, wanted to get out of the promise to meet with Reagan later this year. The Soviet Union has, however, declared that it will keep the summit meeting agreed upon last fall in Geneva, the exact date of which is, however, still open.

Gorbachev's "advertising" style does not, however, change the fact that the United States is hard pressed to oppose a complete nuclear test ban, to which it has obligated itself.

The argument that test detonations cannot be given up as long as there are nuclear weapons reminds one of a vicious circle, which places all negotiations and concluded agreements concerning nuclear weapons, especially the nuclear non-proliferation treaty, in a peculiar light.

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CSO: 5200/2677

RELATED ISSUES

PRC MISSION TO UN PRESENTS VIEWS ON DISARMAMENT VERIFICATION

OW290804 Beijing XINHUA in English 0737 GMT 29 Apr 86

[Text] United Nations, April 28 (XINHUA) -- The Chinese Permanent Mission to the United Nations today sent a letter to Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cueller, presenting its government's basic views on the question of verifying international disarmament agreements. The letter, first of all, reiterated that "in light of the growing intensification of the arms race between the superpowers and the existence of the danger of a new world war, it will be conducive to the maintenance of world peace to reach an agreement on promoting effective arms reductions."

"Stipulation of appropriate verification measures is conducive to the effective implementation of the agreements" and, therefore, "verification measures should be an essential component to disarmament agreements," the letter said.

On the principles which should be taken into account in international disarmament negotiations on the question of verification, the letter said that "as verification measures are to guarantee the concrete implementation of disarmament agreements, the provisions concerned should be determined by the purposes, scope and nature of the relevant disarmament agreements." The letter demanded the affirmation of "the role of necessary international verification means" and suggested the employment in combination of international and national verification means in accordance with the nature of disarmament agreements.

"In order to ensure the participation in international verification by all countries concerned on an equal footing, an international verification system should be established and perfected step by step," it added. The letter also stressed that "verification should not be discriminatory in forms and methods, nor should it cause interference in the internal affairs of the relevant countries or hindrance to their economic and social development."

The Chinese delegation sent this letter to the U.N. secretary-general according to the resolution on the question of verification adopted by the 40th session of the U.N. General Assembly, which invited all member states of the organization to communicate to the secretary-general their views and suggestions on verification principles, procedures and techniques.

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